United Nations S/2015/573

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 30 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of Lithuania in May 2015 (see annex). This document was prepared under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raimonda **Murmokaitė**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Lithuania (May 2015)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations, Raimonda Murmokaitė, in May 2015, the Security Council held a total of 17 meetings, including two open debates, two debates, nine briefings, 15 consultations, one private meeting, and two informal interactive dialogues. A number of issues, including on accountability in Burundi, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Myanmar, and the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic) and South Sudan, were addressed at length under "Other matters". The Council adopted four resolutions and one presidential statement, and issued 11 statements to the press.

During the reporting period, the Council held an open debate on the human costs of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and an open debate on the protection of journalists in conflict situations, which was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Linas Linkevičius. The Council also held a briefing on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (European Union), with the participation of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. Further, the Council held a briefing at the Ministerial level on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, which was also chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

Africa

Burundi

On 8 May, the Security Council held closed consultations on the situation in Burundi. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, on the tense security situation in Bujumbura. The members of the Council received an update on the dialogue, organized on 5 May by the Ministry of Interior and supported by the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB), which brought together various stakeholders, including two former Presidents of Burundi. Mr. Djinnit also updated the Council on the visit to Bujumbura on 6 May by the Foreign Ministers of the States members of the East African Community and the extraordinary summit of the East African Community on Burundi, planned to be held on 31 May in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. He noted that the nomination by the ruling party of President Pierre Nkurunziza as a candidate for a third term in office had been a major dividing issue among stakeholders.

In the statement released to the press following the consultations, Council members stressed their concern about the ongoing unrest and escalation of violence in Burundi and the increasing number of refugees in neighbouring States. The

members of the Council called on all parties to prioritize peace and stability in Burundi through political dialogue and stressed the need to hold a credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral process. They also expressed their full support to Mr. Djinnit and MENUB for their mediation efforts and welcomed the engagement of the African Union, the East African Community and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region.

On 14 May, Mr. Djinnit briefed the Council in closed consultations on further developments in Burundi. He informed that President Nkurunziza had been deposed and that his Government had been dissolved by General Godefroid Niyombare. He observed that the situation in Burundi had deteriorated drastically since the most recent briefing, on 8 May, with the number of refugees from Burundi to neighbouring countries exceeding 100,000. Mr. Djinnit informed the Council about his efforts to engage all stakeholders, including Government officials, the Army Chief of Staff and General Niyombare. He also briefed the Council about the East African Community Summit held on 13 May in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, which the President of Burundi had not been able to attend. The summit had condemned the coup and called for the return to constitutional order and postponement of the elections for a period not exceeding the mandate of the current Government.

Following the consultations, the members of the Council, in a statement released to the press, condemned the violent unrest in Burundi and both those who had perpetrated violence against civilians and those who had sought to seize power by unlawful means. Council members called on all parties to prioritize the restoration of peace and stability, return swiftly to the rule of law and hold credible elections in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement. They also reiterated their full support for the efforts of Mr. Djinnit and those of regional organizations and expressed their intent to respond to violent acts that threaten peace and security in Burundi.

On 15 May, the members of the Council, in a statement to the press, expressed serious concern over the ongoing tensions in Burundi and stressed the urgent need for dialogue and reconciliation among all Burundians. Council members called on all parties to show restraint, specifically condemned those who facilitated violence of any kind, and called on the Burundian authorities to address the crisis. Council members also called for the swift return of the rule of law and the holding of peaceful, transparent, inclusive and credible elections. They also expressed their intent to respond to acts of violence which threaten peace and security in Burundi. Council members also reiterated their full support for the efforts of Mr. Djinnit and those of regional organizations and expressed their intent to respond to violent acts that threaten peace and security in Burundi.

In its follow-up statement to the press of 24 May, Council members condemned in the strongest terms the killing in Burundi on 23 May of Zedi Feruzi, leader of the opposition Zigamibanga party, Union pour la paix et le développement, and his bodyguard. They also condemned the grenade attack on 22 May in the central market of Bujumbura, which left two dead and many others injured. Council members urged the Burundian authorities to swiftly bring the perpetrators of those crimes to justice and called on all stakeholders to demonstrate their sense of responsibility and to exercise calm and restraint.

In closed consultations on 27 May, the Council was briefed by Mr. Djinnit on the latest developments in Burundi. The Special Envoy described the situation as tense, with almost daily violent protests in Bujumbura, and spreading to other areas, which had resulted in the deaths of approximately 40 persons, including that of Zedi Feruzi. Mr. Djinnit informed that the search for a political solution on the issue of the constitutional elections had continued despite divisions among political parties on other matters. He also stressed the critical role of regional actors in addressing the political crisis. The Special Envoy expressed his hope that the upcoming East African Community Summit, planned for 31 May, would provide some guidance, including on the presidential term.

Council members condemned the killing of Mr. Feruzi and called for a thorough investigation. They stressed the importance of de-escalating the situation. Council members also stressed the role of the Special Envoy, and that of regional actors. Many members of the Council were of the view that the current situation did not allow for the holding of free and fair elections. Several delegations referred to the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Burundi regarding the participation of Mr. Nkurunziza in the presidential election.

Central African Republic

On 15 May, the Security Council, in a statement to the press, welcomed the holding in Bangui, from 4 to 11 May 2015, of the National Forum on reconciliation and the inclusive grass-roots level consultations. The members of the Council commended the adoption of the Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction, including, inter alia, commitments for the swift holding of presidential and legislative electoral processes, decentralization and a reinforced judiciary. The Council further commended the signature of an agreement on the principles for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as an agreement by which armed groups had made a commitment to end the recruitment of child soldiers and to liberate from their ranks all children associated with conflict. The Council called on the Secretariat and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to begin swift implementation of a comprehensive and credible programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 6 May, members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms in a statement to the press the attack on 5 May 2015 against the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in Beni territory, in which two peacekeepers from the United Republic of Tanzania were killed and others injured, and underlined that such actions could constitute war crimes under international law.

On 7 May, the Council was briefed, under "Other matters", by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Herve Ladsous, on his recent visit to the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. Mr. Ladsous informed the Council of a spate of attacks by armed groups targeting civilians and MONUSCO personnel, including the attack on 4 May against a MONUSCO helicopter and the attack on 5 May in which two MONUSCO peacekeepers had been killed. Mr. Ladsous reiterated that any further reduction of

MONUSCO troops had to be bound to improvement of the security situation, to progress in fighting armed groups and to the capacity of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure security in the country. He called upon the Government to create conditions that would allow the resumption of cooperation with armed forces and recalled that MONUSCO had been mandated by resolution 2211 (2015) to act unilaterally.

Council members expressed their concern over the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reiterated their support to MONUSCO. They also called for resumption of cooperation between MONUSCO and the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stressed that further reduction of MONUSCO troops had to be linked to the achievement of significant progress in the security situation in the country.

Liberia

On 5 May, the Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of UNMIL, Karin Landgren, and the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Sweden, Olof Skoog. A statement was also made by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia, Benedict F. Sannoh.

Ms. Landgren informed the Council of the steps that the Government of Liberia was taking to fully assume its security responsibilities from UNMIL by 30 June 2016, pursuant to resolutions 2190 (2014) and 2215 (2015), and that the "Government of Liberia Plan for UNMIL Transition" had been endorsed by the National Security Council of Liberia. She further informed the Council of her efforts to urge the Government of Liberia to include justice and security sectors in post-Ebola recovery planning. The Special Representative also stressed that the factors which had contributed to spread of Ebola needed to be addressed. Mr. Skoog told the Council about his recent trip to the country, which had been aimed at identifying ways for the Peacebuilding Commission to support the peacebuilding priorities during Ebola recovery and the UNMIL transition processes in Liberia. Mr. Sannoh focused his remarks on the progress achieved towards the consolidation of peace, the promotion of national reconciliation and the creation of an enabling environment for political, economic and social development in Liberia. He also noted that while the Secretary-General, in his twenty-ninth report on UNMIL (S/2015/275) had fairly represented the situation in Liberia, some of the incidents reported had not provided a holistic picture of the situation in the country.

In consultations, Ms. Landgren focused her remarks on sources of potential instability and urged the Council to remain engaged in Liberia. Council members discussed challenges to the Government to meet the security transition target of 30 June 2016 and efforts to consolidate Liberia's peacebuilding gains.

Libya (International Criminal Court)

On 11 May, the Council held an informal interactive informal dialogue with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, on the situation in Libya, referred by the Council to ICC, and on Libya's cooperation with the Court. The Permanent Representative of Libya participated in the meeting.

Ms. Bensouda stressed the importance of cooperation among the Court, the Libya Prosecutor's Office, States Parties to the Rome Statute of ICC and the Security Council, and encouraged the finding of solutions to address non-compliance through practical steps and the lessons learned in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mali. The Prosecutor encouraged the establishment of an international contact group through which material and judicial support could be provided to assist in implementation of the Court's mandate. The lack of resources, an increase in the number of cases over the past 10 years and the security challenges posed to ICC staff members in Libya were highlighted as key problems.

Council members shared the Prosecutor's concern about the deteriorating situation in Libya, and broadly agreed with the need for strengthened cooperation with the Court and the obligation to fight impunity for crimes. A number of Council members expressed their concern over non-cooperation with the Court by the Government of Libya in the case of Saif al-Islam Qadhafi and encouraged the Government to implement its legal obligations. Several Council members were interested in practical steps that the Council could take to help increase the efficiency of the work of the Court, while several Council members pointed out that such steps should not bear upon the independent character of the Court. Some Council members emphasized the need to respect the judicial independence of States and the complementary role of the Court.

On 12 May, the Council was briefed by Ms. Bensouda on actions taken pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), by which the Council had referred the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor. The Permanent Representative of Libya participated in the meeting. The Prosecutor repeatedly emphasized the importance of cooperation among the Court, Libyan Prosecutor-General's Office, States Parties to the Rome Statute and the Council. She expressed concern over the growing political instability in the country, and the difficulty of closing the impunity gap in Libya. The Prosecutor was worried over the ongoing threats to media workers, human rights defenders and women, in particular. She suggested the formation of an international contact group on justice issues; a suggestion which some Council members supported. Ms. Bensouda further expressed concern over the unresolved issues pertaining to individuals in detention in Libya and the mass displacement of Tawerghans. She noted that the jurisdiction of the Court over Libya prima facie extends to alleged crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or Daesh. The Prosecutor stressed Libya's ongoing non-cooperation with the Court in the case of Saif al-Islam Qadhafi.

Council members widely echoed the concerns of the Prosecutor about the political and security situation in Libya, with most recognizing its impact on accountability efforts. The members of the Council welcomed positive cooperation between the Prosecutor of the Court and Libya's Prosecutor-General Office. Some members of the Council supported the call of the Prosecutor for Libya to immediately surrender Saif al-Islam Qadhafi to the custody of the Court. Some Council members urged the Office of the Prosecutor to closely monitor ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Libya. The Permanent Representative of Libya, Ibrahim O. A. Dabbashi, reaffirmed the commitment of Libya to the achievement of justice and accountability.

Mali

On 1 May, members of the Council, in a statement to the press, expressed deep concern over the outbreak of violence in northern Mali and demanded that the hostilities cease immediately. Council members reiterated their readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who resumed hostilities and violated the ceasefire. They encouraged the parties to engage constructively and in good faith, with a view to signing the draft agreement on peace and reconciliation in Mali on 15 May 2015 in Bamako.

On 7 May, the Council was briefed, under "Other matters", by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Atul Khare, on the recent developments in Mali and the challenges faced by the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in the deployment of the Mission's remaining contingents and enablers and the sustainment of its forces in northern Mali. Mr. Ladsous warned that major ceasefire violations by all parties since 27 April 2015 had posed a threat to the peace process. He requested the Council to maintain pressure on the Malian parties to remain committed to the peace process and sign the draft agreement on peace and reconciliation in Mali. Mr. Ladsous underlined that the dialogue should continue and that the agreement should be left open for those willing to accede to it later. Mr. Khare emphasized that the challenging security situation was having an impact on providing field support to the Mission. Council members expressed their concern over continued ceasefire violations and urged the parties to remain committed to the peace process, to continue to dialogue and to allow those willing to join the agreement at the later stage. Some Council members spoke in favour of considering targeted sanctions against those who resumed hostilities and violated the ceasefire.

On 28 May, the Council was briefed under "Other matters" by Mr. Ladsous on his trip to attend the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation on 15 May in Bamako. Mr. Ladsous updated the Council on his meeting with the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, and on ongoing mediation efforts to resolve the security situation in Ménaka (Gao region), in Algiers. The Under-Secretary-General expressed his concern over the accusations of partiality against MINUSMA by the Government of Mali and ongoing security threats confronting the Mission, including the mine attack on 28 May on the convoy carrying the Force Commander and Police Commissioner of MINUSMA. Mr. Ladsous spoke about the deteriorating security situation in Ménaka and the ongoing ceasefire violations by all sides. He said it was time for the Council to increase pressure on the parties and consider the imposition of targeted sanctions against those who violated the ceasefire agreements. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized the challenges for MINUSMA to implement its mandate in the context of a partial peace agreement. Council members urged the parties to remain engaged in the peace process and further called on those parties that had not yet done so to sign the Agreement. Members of the Council deplored the attacks against MINUSMA, reiterated their full support to the Mission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, Mongi Hamdi, and stressed the need to define the role of MINUSMA in the implementation of the Agreement. Council members urged the parties to cease all hostilities and to recommit to the ceasefire agreements. Some Council members voiced support for the imposition of targeted sanctions against those who violate the ceasefire agreements.

On 29 May, the Council, in its statement to the press, deplored the shooting incident that had taken place in Bamako on 25 May, during which a Bangladeshi peacekeeper of MINUSMA had been killed and another injured. The members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the explosion of a mine on a MINUSMA convoy on 28 May in the region of Timbuktu. The members of the Council reiterated their full support to MINUSMA and the French forces that support it.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) (concerning the Sudan)

On 28 May, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Chair of the Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, on the work of the Committee during the period from 7 February to 28 May 2015. The Chair recalled resolution 2200 (2015), which had extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until March 2016, and the appointment of the Panel members by the Secretary-General on 12 March. He informed the Council that the Committee had held one informal meeting on 6 May to hear a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its programme of work. He also informed the Council about the bilateral meeting on 16 April between the Chair of the Committee and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations, held as a follow-up action on the recommendations of the Panel to the Committee. Council members welcomed the upcoming meeting of the Chair of the Committee with Sudan and regional States, noting the importance of regional cooperation for the effective implementation of sanctions. Some noted the dire security situation in Darfur, with civilians continuing to bear the brunt of the conflict. In this regard, the members of the Council called on the Government of Sudan to comply with its obligations under the sanctions regime and to ensure full cooperation with the Panel of Experts, including through the timely issuance of entry visas and the facilitation of access to Darfur. Some Council members remarked on the need for the Panel to strictly adhere to its mandate and to base its reports on objective and verified information.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 5 May, the Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Abyei and on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA). Mr. Ladsous noted that the situation in the Abyei area remained volatile with a few significant incidents involving militias and armed elements from both Sudan and South Sudan. He said that in two cases, the attacks had resulted in the abduction of children. Mr. Ladsous also noted that no incidents had been recorded in the area in relation to the national elections held in the Sudan in April. The Under-Secretary-General furthermore reported that the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) had resumed its activities after two years of inactivity and that a meeting of traditional leaders had been planned.

Members of the Council welcomed the resumption of AJOC, as well as its intentions to organize the dialogue among traditional leaders. Many members welcomed the active engagement of the African Union in facilitating the meeting. They also expressed their concern about the continued vacuum in public administration and the rule of law, as well as the security risks arising from

intercommunal tensions and the proliferation of small arms, which could further exacerbate the security and humanitarian situation in Abyei. A number of Council members voiced their appreciation and strong support for UNISFA in the implementation of its mandate, with some stressing that the force could not replace the administration in Abyei and that the decision on Abyei must remain the responsibility of the two Governments.

On 5 May, the Council held a private meeting with the countries contributing troops to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

On 12 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel, Miguel de Serpa Soares, on accountability options for international humanitarian law and human rights violations in South Sudan committed since December 2013. Mr. Soares stressed that the capacities of the justice system in South Sudan following 16 months of conflict were severely limited, underlining that it would not be in a position to sustain credible judicial processes without significant international support. He further presented a number of possible options for criminal accountability processes, including the exercise of jurisdiction by existing international tribunals and the establishment of new international or internationally assisted criminal tribunals. Mr. Šimonović focused his remarks on non-judicial mechanisms for the transitional justice, such as truth seeking, national consultations and reconciliation. He stressed that accountability and transitional justice would be central to finding a lasting peace in South Sudan and that a peace agreement should provide for accountability and transitional justice measures. Mr. Šimonović urged the Council to remain seized of the question of accountability for past and present violations in South Sudan.

Many members of the Council spoke in favour of the establishment of appropriate international justice mechanisms owing to the lack of capacity of the justice system of South Sudan to address the crimes committed in the country in accordance with international standards. A few members voiced their support for the exercise of jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court and the public release of the report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry that might help to facilitate investigations. Some Council members noted that notwithstanding the importance of the justice and accountability question, priority must be given to peace negotiations and the pursuit of a peace agreement in South Sudan. Many members of the Council agreed, however, on the need for substantial international support to assist in building the national judicial capacities of South Sudan, while some stressed the responsibility of South Sudanese to combat impunity in their country.

On 14 May, the Council held a briefing and consultations on UNMISS and on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS, Ellen Margrethe Løj, and heard a statement by the representative of the Chair of the 2206 Committee, Ambassador Carlos Olguín, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile. A statement was also made by the Permanent Representative of South Sudan.

Ms. Løj updated the Council on the recent fighting in Unity State owing to military offensives by pro-government forces and said that it had forced thousands of civilians to flee, with some seeking shelter in the overcrowded United Nations compounds. She warned the members of the Council of widespread human rights

violations and the very bleak humanitarian situation in the country, with the humanitarian response being seriously underfunded. She further said that the peace process being led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) remained at a standstill owing to the intransigence of the warring parties. Ms. Løj also pointed out the ongoing violations of the status-of-forces agreement and the occurrence of attacks against, and harassment of, United Nations and humanitarian personnel.

Mr. Olguín briefed the Council on the work of the Committee during the period since the adoption of resolution 2206 (2015) on 3 March. He informed the Council that the Committee's Guidelines had been adopted on 20 April and that the members of the Panel of Experts had been appointed by the Secretary-General on 27 April. He reported on two informal meetings of the Committee on 28 April and 8 May with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zinab Bangura, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, Laila Zerrougui, respectively. Mr. Olguín informed that the Committee looked forward to receiving 90-day reports on the implementation of the travel ban and assets freeze by 3 June.

Council members expressed deep concern at the reports of the renewed fighting and the humanitarian consequences thereof. Members of the Council also affirmed the importance of a meaningful engagement of the parties with IGAD and expressed strong support to the mediation efforts being led by IGAD, the continued engagement by the African Union and the role that a unified region could play in search of sustainable peace in South Sudan. Many members spoke in favour of imposing targeted sanctions on individuals as a means of strengthening the mediation efforts by IGAD, while some expressed doubts about their effectiveness as a means of promoting the peace process in the country.

On 17 May, the Council issued a statement to the press in which its members condemned the renewed large-scale violence in Unity State and the large-scale attack by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) (in Opposition) on the town of Malakal, Upper Nile State. They underlined their grave concern over the large-scale displacement and increased insecurity that led to the suspension of nearly all activity and delivery of aid to populations in the affected areas, which further magnified the dire humanitarian crisis. The Council called upon all parties to engage meaningfully in the peace process so as to bring about a political solution to the crisis and an end to the conflict through the peace process led by IGAD and renewed regional and international efforts. Members of the Council reiterated their willingness to impose sanctions against those who threatened the peace, security or stability of South Sudan.

On 28 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2223 (2015), extending the mandate of UNMISS until 30 November 2015, retaining its focus on four key tasks: the protection of civilians; the monitoring and investigation of violations of human rights; the creation of conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and the provision of support to the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. The resolution commended the mediation efforts by IGAD and called for the immediate and full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreements by the Government of South Sudan and SPLM/A

in Opposition, expressing its willingness to impose targeted sanctions pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) against any party taking action to undermine peace, stability and security in the country. The resolution condemned acts of sexual violence, and urged that all allegations of human rights violations and abuses be investigated, calling for accountability for anyone responsible.

Somalia

On 12 May, the Council heard, under "Other matters", an update by one delegation on the issue of the report on sexual exploitation and abuse by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which was released by the African Union Independent Investigation Team on 21 April 2015. A member of the Council commended the work of the African Union investigation team, highlighted some of the obstacles the investigators faced and requested an update on the next steps in the investigation. The Council decided to remain seized of the matter.

On 19 May, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the situation in Somalia. The Council was briefed through videoteleconferencing from Addis Ababa by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Nicholas Kay, and the African Union Special Representative for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, Maman Sidikou. The Council also heard a statement by the Prime Minister of Somalia, Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, through videoteleconferencing from Mogadishu.

The Special Representative presented to the Council the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2015/331) and underlined that following the end of the political crisis, the process of federal State-building had regained momentum. He noted that the President and the Prime Minister, the Parliament Speaker and the leaders of the Puntland, Jubba and South West Administrations were all determined to deliver on the "Vision 2016" plan. Mr. Kay stressed that the African Union-United Nations partnership in Somalia was unique, strong and essential for success. He underscored the importance of addressing outstanding issues, such as forming Interim Regional Administrations and assemblies, advancing the constitutional review, establishing the National Independent Electoral Commission and Boundaries and Federation Commission, and finalizing legislation on political parties, citizenship and elections. He further expressed concern about the decision to postpone elections in Somaliland until March 2017. Mr. Kay underscored that Al-Shabaab remained a threat to the political process, and thus, that the renewal of the joint Somali-African Union offensive against the group was a priority. The African Union Special Representative updated the Council on security issues and on the recently concluded joint African Union-United Nations review of conditions for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and the steps that AMISOM had taken in response to allegations of sexual abuse by its personnel. He noted the conclusion of the joint mission that the situation in Somalia as a whole was not conducive to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation until the end of 2016, at the earliest. He welcomed the recommendation to extend the duration of the surge of deployment of AMISOM and its reconfiguration to respond to evolving realities. The Prime Minister of Somalia presented to the Council the strategy of the Federal Government to fight Al-Shabaab, and called on the Council to authorize a support package to integrate additional personnel into the Somali National Army. In closed consultations, Council members called on the international community to continue to assist the Federal Government of Somalia to advance the political process, eradicate

the threat of Al-Shabaab, improve the humanitarian situation, and promote peacebuilding and sustained development.

On 26 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2221 (2015), extending the mandate of UNSOM until 7 August 2015.

Middle East

Iraq

On 14 May, the Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), where it heard the briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI, Ján Kubiš, who addressed the Council in this capacity for the first time, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos. The Permanent Representative of Iraq, Mohamed Ali Alhakim, delivered the statement under rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

The Special Representative presented the third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2169 (2014) and the sixth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2017 (2013). He told the Council of his mixed first impressions, but noted some positive perspectives. He thought that Iraq faced unprecedented challenges and needed strong international support. Mr. Kubiš stressed that Iraq might become a success story with continuous and long-term political, financial and material support. He further underlined that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was far from being defeated, and that gains by the Government remained fragile. The Special Representative also underlined the importance of inclusive political processes, legal, political and administrative reforms for national unity and reconciliation. He particularly encouraged Baghdad and Erbil to continue working together towards resolving open issues in order to secure the sustainable management and fair distribution of Iraq's natural resources. The Under-Secretary-General underlined that the humanitarian outlook in Iraq remained deeply worrying, with over 8.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid, 2.8 million displaced and over 1 million in need of shelter. She expressed a particular concern about the situation of millions of Iraqis trapped in areas controlled by ISIL and people who fled areas that had been liberated from ISIL. Ms. Amos noted severe funding shortfalls for the humanitarian programme in Iraq. The Permanent Representative of Iraq noted that the country's problems were multinational in nature, with the presence in the country of terrorists from over 60 nations. He expressed regret that Council resolutions on the fight against terrorism had not been fully implemented by all Member States and that the flow of terrorists continued. Mr. Alhakim emphasized that it was unrealistic to destroy ISIL in Iraq alone, so there was a need to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to return to peace in both States.

In consultations, Council members reiterated their support to the territorial integrity and unity of Iraq, the importance for Iraq to continue reforms, decentralization and national reconciliation in good faith. They reaffirmed that terrorism remained the biggest challenge affecting Iraq and the entire region. Some Council members emphasized in this regard that the international community should support Iraq and other countries of the region in their fight against terrorism by the

application of uniform standards. They stressed the importance of good relationships between Iraq and regional countries, as well as between Baghdad and Erbil. Council members reiterated the importance of reconciliation, inclusiveness and accountability. Many expressed deep concern about violations of human rights in areas liberated from ISIL. They reiterated their concern about the growing humanitarian crisis and the severe lack of funding. Council members reiterated their full support to UNAMI and Mr. Kubiš.

Syrian Arab Republic

On 4 May, under "Other matters", the Council was briefed in consultations by the Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, and the Director of the Syria Field Office for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Michael Kingsley-Nyinah, on the worsening situation in the Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, on the outskirts of Damascus. Mr. Kingsley-Nyinah spoke of the dangerous situation inside the camp, where the lives of civilians were in jeopardy. He specifically mentioned the incidents of 28 April and 1 May, which involved the use of heavy weapons and caused serious damage to civilian property. UNRWA was yet to gain safe humanitarian access inside the Yarmouk camp. He mentioned that the humanitarian response had been successfully extended to the districts of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem in rural Damascus during the past three weeks, but noted that the humanitarian efforts in those areas had been interrupted since 30 April, owing to security concerns. The Special Envoy also underlined that credible information was available confirming the use of barrel bombs and rockets during the fighting inside the camp on 28 April and 1 May, and stressed that there could be no justification for the use of indiscriminate weapons against thousands of civilians on the ground.

Members of the Council expressed their concern at the worsening situation in the Yarmouk camp and condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated by ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front in the camp. Council members reiterated their call on the parties to support the United Nations in its efforts to assist civilians inside the camp, those wishing to temporarily relocate and those who had already fled, including through ensuring humanitarian access. They stressed the importance of observing international humanitarian law and of guaranteeing appropriate safeguards while allowing the safe and unhindered relocation of civilians from the camp. Many Council members condemned the renewed indiscriminate aerial bombardment and shelling of the camp by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and called on it to cease such attacks immediately. Some members of the Council stressed that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had the right and the obligation to fight terrorism on its territory.

On 7 May, the Council was briefed in closed consultations by the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, on the progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme. Ms. Kane expressed concern in relation to the discrepancies in the chemical weapons declaration by the Syrian Arab Republic and noted that one or two additional visits by the Declaration Assessment Team might be needed. She stressed that access should be guaranteed to the fact-finding mission, which had previously been delayed owing to a miscommunication between the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic. Members of the Council welcomed the progress achieved so far in destroying

facilities for the manufacture of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, but expressed their concern at the omissions and discrepancies in the chemical weapons declaration and subsequent documents submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic. They encouraged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate closely with the Declaration Assessment Team. Several members of the Council noted that the fact-finding mission should be allowed to enter the country as soon as possible and urged all parties to cooperate with the fact-finding mission and to ensure the safety of its members. Council members expressed serious concern at reports alleging the continuous illegal use of toxic chemicals, chlorine in particular, in the Syrian Arab Republic and asked for those reports to be investigated thoroughly and impartially and for those responsible to be held accountable. Finally, a number of Council members strongly supported the proposal put forward by one delegation that the Council begin work on a resolution that would establish an attribution mechanism.

On 22 May, in its statement to the press, Council members strongly condemned the ongoing barbaric terrorist acts by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) in the Syrian Arab Republic, including its takeover of Palmyra. Members of the Council expressed deep concern for the residents of Palmyra inside the city, as well as for those displaced as a result of the advance of ISIL and called for the safe passage of civilians fleeing the violence. They reaffirmed that the primary responsibility to protect its population rested with the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic. Members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist acts and the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic committed by ISIL, and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of those acts to justice. They noted with concern that ISIL and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida were generating income from engaging in the looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items, which was being used to support their recruitment efforts and to strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks. Members of the Council stated their grave concern for the protection of the World Heritage site of Palmyra.

On 28 May, the Council held a briefing and informal consultations on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the implementation of Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos. In what was to be her last briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General described the extremely grave situation throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, which was deteriorating by the day. A total of 540,000 people had been displaced in 2015 alone, adding to the 7.6 million already displaced and the more than 12.2 million people who were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. She underlined indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including on civilian objects, such as schools and hospitals, and she added that the use of chlorine continued to be reported. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that new rules and regulations introduced by the Government had resulted in delays and distractions, and had prevented the delivery of assistance, including surgical supplies. She also informed the Council of the killing of civilians by ISIL following the capture of Palmyra. Ms. Amos further stressed that the Secretary-General had systematically reported on the continued non-compliance by the Syrian Arab Republic with resolution 2139 (2014). She stated that while the cross-border deliveries enabled by resolutions 2165 and 2191 had allowed the United Nations to extend its reach, the parties to the conflict had ignored practically all aspects of

resolution 2139 (2014). Ms. Amos called on the Council to demonstrate its leadership and take concrete measures to ensure protection of civilians and facilitate humanitarian access to all people throughout the country without discrimination. She also stressed the importance of bringing an end to the sieges, which collectively punished people, and called on the Council to consider all possible avenues to ensure accountability for violations of international law. The Under-Secretary-General underlined the need to step up financial support for the humanitarian response effort in the Syrian Arab Republic and the importance of respecting the non-political nature of humanitarian aid. In follow-up consultations, Council members echoed deep concern over the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, the continuous violence, the violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the Syrian Arab Republic and the non-implementation of resolution 2139 (2014) by the parties to the conflict. A number of Council members urged that the humanitarian situation in besieged areas be addressed, including through the dispatch of a humanitarian assessment mission, mandated by the Council, which would assess the humanitarian needs and negotiate humanitarian access. Many Council members condemned the numerous attacks on medical personnel and facilities and expressed concern that free passage of medical, including surgical, supplies was not being granted. Some Council members underlined the importance of counter-terrorism efforts in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 19 May, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, provided to the Council his first briefing in his new capacity. Mr. Mladenov expressed concern over the stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process and stressed that it was even more critical for the Israelis and the Palestinians to negotiate a two-State solution. He called on the new Government of Israel to take credible steps, including a freeze in settlement activity. The Special Coordinator reiterated the necessity of continued security cooperation by both sides. The Secretary-General stood ready to explore realistic options for a return to meaningful negotiations within a reasonable timeframe. The Special Coordinator noted the desperate situation in Gaza. He stressed that the slow pace of reconstruction and the lack of financial support to rebuild Gaza put the Strip at risk of implosion. He also underlined that there was a moral and humanitarian imperative, not just for the United Nations, but for the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, to prevent such an implosion, and that without Palestinian unity and reconciliation, which must include the resumption of control by the Government of National Consensus over crossings to Israel and Egypt, and paving the way for general elections in Palestine, which were long overdue, all efforts to improve the situation would face major difficulties.

In consultations, the members of the Council expressed serious concern about the worsening situation on the ground, in particular in Gaza, and called upon the international community to honour its commitment to the reconstruction of Gaza. Council members urged the parties to stop unilateral actions, show strong leadership and return to negotiations. They underlined the important roles that the United Nations, the European Union and Arab countries, and the United States could play in this process. Many members of the Council condemned the continued settlement

plans announced by Israel as a violation of international law and major obstacle to the peace talks.

Yemen

On 1 May, the Council held consultations on the humanitarian situation in Yemen. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, updated Council members on the deteriorating situation on the ground, with the health, water and sanitation infrastructure on the point of collapse. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that urgent humanitarian aid and unfettered humanitarian access to local populations should be complemented by a political process, and called on the parties to the conflict to return to the negotiating table in good faith. He apprised Council members of the efforts of the Secretary-General and his newly appointed Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to facilitate a meeting among various parties aiming to put the transition process back on track. Council members shared unanimous concern over the deepening humanitarian crisis in Yemen, recognizing that it could be resolved only through a political process. They welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold a conference in Geneva and voiced their full support for the new Special Envoy.

On 12 May, members of the Council, in their statement to the press, reaffirmed their strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen and demanded full implementation of resolution 2216 (2015). They welcomed the appointment of Ismail Cheikh Ahmed as the Special Envoy for Yemen and reiterated their request that the Secretary-General intensify his good offices role in order to enable a resumption of a political transition that is peaceful, inclusive, orderly and led by the Yemenis themselves, including through a conference of all Yemeni stakeholders. Members of the Council called on Yemeni parties to engage without preconditions, to reject acts of violence and to refrain from all unilateral actions. Council members further expressed their grave concern at the humanitarian crisis, welcomed the initiative of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Yemen to implement a five-day humanitarian pause and urged all parties to facilitate a rapid, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors to reach people in need.

On 20 May, the Council held consultations on Yemen and was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, and Operations Director of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, John Ging. The Special Representative underscored that the situation in Yemen was grave and that the longer the violence endured, the more intractable the conflict became. He underlined that the conference convened by the Secretary-General in Geneva on 28 May would be an important stepping stone for a process that had to be Yemeni-led in order to succeed. He further noted that terrorist groups were the biggest beneficiaries from the ongoing conflict. Mr. Ging emphasized that the already serious humanitarian situation in Yemen was further aggravated by the armed conflict. He stressed that children were particularly vulnerable, and that hospitals and health workers were constantly being targeted. He further noted the importance of the five-day humanitarian pause, but acknowledged it was too short a span, since only a small fraction of needs had been satisfied. The Special Representative also underlined the willingness of humanitarian actors to do more, but noted that they were constrained by the severe insecurity caused by the resumed fighting. Council members welcomed the humanitarian pause, but acknowledged that its duration had

been too short and that further pauses were needed. Many Council members expressed concern at violations of international humanitarian law, in particular, by the Houthis. Following the consultations, Council members, in a statement released to the press, welcomed the announcement of the Secretary-General that a conference of all Yemeni stakeholders would be convened in Geneva on 28 May and reaffirmed their call on all Yemeni parties to attend those talks and to engage without preconditions and in good faith.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 12 May, the Council held a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his briefing to the Council, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, welcomed the newly elected authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, urged them to work together and to take the necessary steps in order to take the advantage of the European Union's initiative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Statements were made by the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and the European Union.

Council members supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many expressed concern over the divisive and secessionist rhetoric in the Republika Srpska and feared that it might undermine the peace agreement, unity and stability of the country, stressing that the peace agreement did not grant entities the right to secede. One Council member expressed doubt about the veracity of accusations against Bosnian Serbs and noted that some statements by some Bosniaks and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina might undermine the spirit of the Dayton Agreement. Many Council members welcomed the formation of a new Government and emphasized the need for continued social and economic reforms. Most Council members also welcomed the commitment by newly elected authorities for continued reforms in the context of the relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union, as well as the entry into force of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The majority of Council members expressed support for the continued presence of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation EUFOR ALTHEA), and for the work of the Office of the High Representative, and called for the further implementation of conditions that would enable the closure of the Office, while one Council member opposed the use of presence of international entities to accelerate the integration of the country into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Several delegates expressed concern over the growth of violent extremism in the country and region, and welcomed efforts by Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the problem of foreign fighters.

Cyprus

On 15 May, members of the Security Council, in a statement to the press, welcomed the resumption on 15 May 2015 of the Cyprus settlement talks, in the framework of the good offices mission of the Secretary-General, and expressed the hope that the leaders would take advantage of the opportunity to reach a comprehensive settlement, as set out in relevant Council resolutions. Members of the Council reaffirmed their support for the process in line with the joint

communiqué of 11 February 2014 and to the efforts of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (European Union)

On 11 May, the Council was briefed by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, on the smuggling and trafficking of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea and the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in this regard. The United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, Peter D. Sutherland, and the African Union Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Antonio Tete, also gave their assessments.

The European Union High Representative underlined the need for urgent action to save lives and the importance of shared regional and global solidarity and partnership. The High Representative noted that the humanitarian emergency had evolved into a serious security crisis, and that smuggling networks were linked to, and in some cases provided financing to, terrorist activities. The High Representative further stressed the need for a comprehensive emergency response to this structural phenomenon and effective action on its root causes, as well as the need for a longer-term vision. She informed the Council of a possible naval operation by the European Union in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy, and expressed the willingness of the European Union to work closely on this issue with the United Nations, in particular, the Security Council. Noting the absence of a unity Government in Libya that could exercise its legitimate authority over the entire territory of the country and its borders, and that the vast majority of human trafficking and smuggling was taking place through Libya, the High Representative reiterated the support of the European Union to the United Nations-led dialogue to reach an agreement on the formation of the Government of National Unity. The United Nations Special Representative outlined the priorities of the Organization for a collective response to the situation, including through an urgent focus on saving lives, boosting law enforcement against smugglers, increasing safe avenues for refugee resettlements, promoting greater solidarity among countries, and intensifying efforts to end conflicts that have led to the displacement of so many people. Mr. Tete urged that collective efforts to address the root causes of the crisis be stepped up through a holistic approach, that partnerships among the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union, as well as countries of origin, transit and destination, be enhanced.

Following the briefing, members of the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the High Representative of the European Union to exchange views on the smuggling of migrants in the Mediterranean region. The High Representative of the European Union stressed the urgency to act quickly in response to the multifaceted humanitarian, security and stability crisis in the Mediterranean region. She further emphasized the relationship with the Libyan authorities and the need for the Council to authorize the European Union to launch a naval operation in the framework of its Common Security and Defence Policy. Council members emphasized the importance of identifying comprehensive and holistic solutions to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean region, and in close partnerships with regional organizations, in particular the African Union. Council members also

requested the High Representative of the European Union to provide further details on the modalities of the European Union's naval operation.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

On 26 May, the Council held its quarterly debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Farid Zarif, gave a briefing. The Council also heard from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minster for Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi. The Special Representative noted the important steps taken by Belgrade and Pristina along their respective European paths, welcomed the continuation of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue facilitated by the European Union and called for the implementation of the agreements reached therein, including one of the core provisions of the April 2013 Agreement, namely the establishment of the association/community of Serb-majority municipalities. He welcomed increasing direct high-level contacts between Pristina and Belgrade, alongside the European Union-facilitated dialogue. He called for the completion of necessary steps towards the establishment of the specialist court. He noted the substantial efforts of the Kosovo authorities to address the recent phenomenon of irregular migration from Kosovo and the issues of violent extremism. He stressed the importance of active regional cooperation in addressing transnational challenges while expressing concern at the deadly armed clashes with the police in Kumanovo, which had involved several individuals from Kosovo. Both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to normalization of relations and progress on the path to integration into the European Union.

Council members welcomed the formation of the government of Kosovo, and the resumption of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue at the political level. They called for continued engagement from both sides in resolving outstanding issues, including the establishment of an association/community of Serb majority municipalities of Kosovo, as well as the return of internally displaced persons. Some Council members welcomed progress in the Kosovo-EU relations and the entry into force of the European Union-Kosovo Stabilization and Association agreement. Members of the Council reiterated their support for UNMIK and the European Union Rule of Law Mission and called for full implementation of their mandates. Some Council members suggested considering reducing the frequency of the debates in the Council on UNMIK, taking into account the progress in the normalization of relations in the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. Some Council members stressed the importance of establishing the specialist court to adjudicate cases following the findings by the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. Some Council members welcomed the measures taken by Kosovo authorities to fight violent extremism, radicalism and terrorism, and the promulgation of legislation regarding foreign terrorist fighters, while one Council member believed that the issue should remain a priority for UNMIK. Some Council members reaffirmed that resolution 1244 (1999) remained the applicable international legal basis for Kosovo settlement.

Asia

Myanmar

On 28 May, the Council was briefed, under "Other matters", by Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the human rights situation in Myanmar. The High Commissioner stressed that the human rights situation in the country was worrying, especially in Rakhine State. He noted that the Rohingya were being subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, as well as to restriction of their freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and religion; their access to citizenship was extremely limited and access to basic services denied, while absolute poverty reigned. The High Commissioner further stated that some groups faced institutionalized discrimination. He noted that with the tightening of border controls by neighbouring States, many migrants and asylum seekers had taken to sea without food and water, and mass graves had been found in Thailand and Malaysia. The High Commissioner reminded the Council of a regional meeting planned for 29 May in Bangkok that would aim at finding a solution to the issue of refugees/irregular migration. The High Commissioner called on the Government of Myanmar to implement more transparent and flexible procedures for granting citizenship to members of the Rohingya population. He further stressed the necessity to abandon discriminatory measures and ensure accountability.

Many Council members were gravely concerned at the human rights situation in Myanmar, especially in Rakhine State. Various forms of discrimination of the Rohingya people were mentioned, some Council members referring to the issue of citizenship and the right to vote during forthcoming elections. A number of Council members expressed their concern over the serious situation of migrants and asylum seekers at sea, with a majority of Council members stressing that this issue had to be resolved at the regional level. Some Council members reiterated that irregular migration involved issues related to combating crimes, such as human trafficking and smuggling of people. Others noted that Myanmar was undergoing the reconciliation process and that the stability of the country was the most important issue.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) (concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 28 May, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Chair of the Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), the Permanent Representative of Spain, Román Oyarzun, on the work of the Committee during the period from 26 February to 27 May.

The Chair informed the Council about the Committee's discussions at its meeting of 20 April, which focused on the recent launches of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 2 March and about the recommendations contained in the 2015 Final Report of the Panel of Experts. He informed the Council that nine letters had been received from Member States following the launches of ballistic missiles on 2 March and a ballistic missile-related test on 8 May. The Chair noted that several members of the Committee had firmly condemned the ballistic missile launches as clear violations of relevant Council resolutions. The Chair also noted that several members of the Committee

had stressed that all parties concerned should keep calm, exercise restraint and make efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Council members condemned the launches of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reiterated that such acts violated Council resolutions. Several Council members noted that the Council should take action to prevent the reoccurrence of such violations in the future, including new sanctions designations in line with the recommendations of the Panel of Experts. Some Council members called on the Committee to do more in providing advice to all Member States on the implementation of relevant resolutions. Some members emphasized the importance of the six-party talks in resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and expressed the need to create conditions for moving forward their early resumption. One delegation noted the need to create an atmosphere of trust by exercising restraint in military activities on the peninsula. Several Council members underlined that the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained grave and that the Council should continue considering this matter. On the other hand, one Council member emphasized that the Council was not the appropriate place to discuss human rights issues.

Thematic and other issues

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 27 May, the Council held an open debate on "The protection of civilians in armed conflict: protection of journalists in conflict situations" and unanimously adopted resolution 2222 (2015), which affirms that a free, independent and impartial media could contribute to the protection of civilians and recognizes that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel could play an important role in the protection of civilians and prevention of conflict, including by acting as an early warning mechanism. United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, Director-General of Reporters Without Borders, Christophe Deloire, and widow of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, Mariane Pearl, briefed the Council. In addition to Council members, 47 Member States and three observers took part in the open debate.

Mr. Eliasson focused his remarks on the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. He stressed the critical role of members of the Council in advancing this agenda and that all killings of journalists in conflict situations must be consistently condemned. He further stressed the need to address corruption, intimidation, reprisals and weak judicial systems that chiefly contributed to impunity. The Deputy Secretary-General noted the need to protect journalists equally in both armed conflict and non-conflict zones, and stressed the different sorts of challenges faced by women journalists. Mr. Eliasson called on missions authorized by the Council to look into and report back to the Council on the safety of journalists as part of their protection of civilians' mandates. Mr. Deloire welcomed the adoption of the new resolution and stressed that it would provide the basis for further action. He called on the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative for the protection of journalists. He further called on the Council to refer relevant cases to the International Criminal Court, in particular with regard to crimes committed in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Ms. Pearl focused

on the importance of journalism to modern society and emphasized that threats to journalists were posed by State control over information, which frequently skewed the narratives. She also called on Member States to refrain from using the pretext of national security to intimidate journalists. Ms. Pearl stressed that the individuals who braved all such pressures to bring the truth to light must be supported by equal courage from the international community.

Council members, echoed by many other non-Council delegations in the debate, welcomed the adoption of resolution 2222 (2015) and stressed the need to carry out the commitments set out therein. They reiterated the need to combat prevailing impunity and ensure accountability. Several delegations highlighted the role of the International Criminal Court in this context. Many reiterated the primary responsibility of States to ensure the protection of journalists, including through providing them with professional security training before they entered conflict zones. A number of delegations underscored the dangers facing local journalists and freelancers, who were frequently subject to arbitrary arrests and harassment. Many were in particular concerned about the security of journalists working in terrorist-controlled areas. Several delegations warned that violence against journalists was often a precursor to widespread human rights violations. Some stressed the need for peacekeeping operations and special political missions to report on specific acts of violence against journalists, and called on the Council to strengthen their mandates in this regard. Some Member States mentioned the importance of freedom of expression and the work of a free and independent media for the protection of civilians.

Small arms

On 13 May, the Council held an open debate on the human cost of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. The Council heard a statement by the Secretary-General and briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, and the President of the Côte d'Ivoire chapter of the West African Action Network on Small Arms, Karamoko Diakité. In addition to Council members, 44 delegations participated in the debate.

The Secretary-General stressed that while over 250 conflicts of the past decade had been different in nature, the widespread availability of small arms, light weapons and ammunition had characterized all of them. He emphasized that civilians, including children, suffered the most. The Secretary-General noted that a universal Arms Trade Treaty, adequately implemented, would be critical to removing tools for armed conflict and, together with other instruments, could prevent the misuse and illicit circulation of thousands of weapons. States must enforce arms embargoes and strengthen United Nations missions tasked with arms-related activities. He further underlined that ammunition was an area that deserved far more attention, because cutting its flows had immediate impact on the intensity of armed activity. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights underscored that while trade in small arms was a multi-billion-dollar business, the cost of armed violence in human and economic terms also ran into the hundreds of billions of dollars. He stressed that the majority of victims were ordinary people and were often the poorest or most vulnerable members of society. The ubiquitous availability of small arms could contribute to the sustained denial of human rights, including the rights to education and health, rising violence against women and girls

and the collapse of the rule of law. Mr. Diakité shared his personal experience of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and the consequences of the collapse of the Government's control when power fell to groups that had no difficulty in gaining access to arms and ammunition. He noted that during the crisis, weapons and ammunition had entered the country in violation of the arms embargo, including leakages from legal stockpiles. Mr. Diakité underscored that every Member State must do all it can to meet international obligations related to stemming the flow of arms into conflict zones.

Representatives of Member States recognized the immense human cost of illicit transfers, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. They underscored the dangers related to weapons' falling into the hands of terrorist, criminal and armed groups. A number of delegations underscored the role that the Arms Trade Treaty will play in regulating international arms trade and encouraged adherence to this Treaty, while many Member States also reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with some noting its central role in countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

On 22 May, the Council adopted resolution 2220 (2015) on small arms and light weapons, co-sponsored by 57 Member States, by a vote of nine in favour, none against and six abstentions. The resolution highlighted the importance of efforts to limit the damaging effect of illicit small arms flows on civilians. Some Council members in their statements of explanation of vote noted the advancements of the resolution, but underscored that concerns regarding the need to halt the supply of small arms and light weapons to non-State actors as well as a few other issues had not been sufficiently addressed in the text of the resolution and encouraged the Council to address those issues in the future. A number of Council members welcomed the resolution for putting civilians and their protection at its core and for providing concrete proposals to increase the effectiveness of United Nations bodies in addressing the issue of small arms. Some Member States stressed the importance of addressing issues related to licensing and brokering of small arms and light weapons.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 22 May, the members of the Council, in a statement to the press, condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) at a mosque in Qatif, Saudi Arabia, on 22 May 2015, resulting in the deaths of at least 21 people.

On 29 May, the Council held a high-level briefing on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, with a view to identifying priority actions for the implementation of Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters. The Council heard briefings from the Secretary-General, the Chair of the Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, Gerard van Bohemen, Chair of the Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, Raimonda Murmokaitė, and the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Jürgen Stock. For the first time, the Council met at the level of Interior Minister (or equivalent).

The Secretary-General noted that there had been an estimated 70 per cent increase in the number of foreign terrorist fighters worldwide between the middle of 2014 and March 2015. He highlighted the need for Member States to enhance their cooperation and to exchange information, develop effective border controls and strengthen their criminal justice systems, in accordance with the rule of law and human rights standards. He also welcomed the growing emphasis on addressing the underlying drivers of violent extremism at the global, regional, national and local levels to prevent radicalization. The Secretary-General outlined the efforts of the United Nations, including the establishment of working groups on foreign terrorist fighters in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the project of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre on "Enhancing the Understanding of Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in the Syrian Arab Republic", and announced his intention to present a plan of action to prevent violent extremism. Mr. van Bohemen emphasized that the targeted sanctions against the Al-Qaida regime were an important part of the toolbox to respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. He described the measures imposed upon individuals and entities designated by 1267/1989 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, and referred to several designations approved by the Committee this year. He said that there were now about 25,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 100 countries, with many of them having travelled to join terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida, especially the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the main movement had been into Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Ms. Murmokaitė said that the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the support of its Executive Directorate, had identified 67 States most affected by the threat of foreign terrorist fighters. She outlined the first report (S/2015/338) that analysed an initial group of 21 States, examining how they implement resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014), the gaps they might need to address, either individually or collectively, and good practices. Ms. Murmokaitė also highlighted that, according to a dedicated report on Advanced Passenger Information (S/2015/377), only 51 States globally currently utilized advanced passenger information systems. She stressed that the conclusions of the report would be used to develop detailed recommendations for the facilitation of technical assistance in the coming months. Mr. Stock stressed the importance of secure sharing of information on foreign terrorist fighters across national and regional borders, through INTERPOL, and that prompt access to that information at the frontlines was vital. He described the Organization's engagement with States in that regard and noted that identifiers of more than 4,000 foreign terrorist fighters were now available in its databases. Mr. Stock recommended that more information be shared, including domestically and across regional borders; and that international borders be strengthened in order to achieve systematic screening capacity, particularly in high-priority locations.

Council members recognized the increasingly global, complex and dynamic threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and discussed priority actions that must be taken to fully implement resolution 2178 (2014). They shared their own experiences, including in criminalizing activities related to foreign terrorist fighters, improving border security, collecting and sharing data pertinent to foreign terrorist fighters within and across borders, as well as other prevention, interdiction and enforcement measures with respect to foreign terrorist fighters, their recruiters and facilitators. The importance of multilateral cooperation and coordination in such efforts was also stressed. Many Council members further underlined the importance of addressing the underlying factors of radicalization, as well as the need to respect

the rule of law and human rights. While recognizing the central role of United Nations entities and the Council's own bodies, many Council members also called for greater cooperation within the United Nations and with other agencies.

On 29 May, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/11), which reiterated grave concern over the continuing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. The Council underscored the need for States to intensify those efforts and to identify and undertake priority actions, in particular those mentioned in the statement, with assistance from others, where needed, as expeditiously as possible. The presidential statement identified possible actions in this regard, such as full implementation of the obligations set out in paragraph 6 of the resolution, enforcement of relevant laws, broader use of advance passenger information to support evidence-based traveller risk assessment and screening procedures, strengthened border control and greater law enforcement cooperation, as well as greater collection and sharing of terrorist identities for screening purposes, improved international, regional and subregional cooperation, increased exchange of information with, and use of, the INTERPOL database of foreign terrorist fighters. The Council requested the 1267/1989 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and Counter-Terrorism Committee to hold a joint meeting on the topic, and recommended that the Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force develop a United Nations capacity-building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

United Nations A/69/996–S/2015/574

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/563), I have the honour to attach herewith a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-13015 (E) 070815 100815

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Annex to the identical letters dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information.

The crisis in Syria has lasted for four and a half years. During that time, Turkey has continually plotted against Syria by collaborating with terrorists, who have come through Turkish territory from more than one hundred States to join Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, Ahrar al-Sham and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. The Syrian Government has written numerous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council documenting the Turkish plot against Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects the Turkish regime's attempt to portray itself as a victim acting in self-defence. Everybody knows that the Turkish regime has provided all forms of support to the terrorist groups. In so doing, it has flagrantly violated the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). For instance, as everyone is well aware, ISIL has been stealing petrol, wheat, cotton and antiquities in Syria and selling them in Turkey, with the knowledge of the Turkish regime, in return for weapons, ammunition and logistical services for its members on Turkish territory. Machinery from hundreds of factories in northern Syria has been dismantled, stolen and transported to Turkey. Indeed, Turkey has continued to train and arm terrorists from the Nusrah Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. It has provided fire cover with rifles and rocket launchers while the groups entered Idlib governorate acting under the name Army of Conquest.

The Turkish Government's support for terrorism makes it directly responsible for the shedding of Syrian blood and the suffering of millions of Syrians at home and abroad.

The letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/563) refers to Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). It ignores Security Council 2199 (2015). This raises the question of whether Turkey is committed in word and deed to implementing those resolutions, which were adopted under Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations. If Turkey and neighbouring States were committed to implementing the resolutions, 70 per cent of the factors underlying the crisis in Syria would be resolved. Article 51 of the Charter entitles the Syrian Arab Republic to defend its people and land against terrorists who are coming over its borders with the support of the Turkish regime and other regional States. However, the Turkish regime has no right to invoke Article 51, because it is itself the party exporting the terrorism to which it refers.

Syria and its armed forces are fighting against terrorism, as represented by over 70 extremist organizations that are funded, armed and trained by well-known regional States and international parties, foremost among which is Turkey. In their statements, United States military officials make no secret of the fact that numerous

regional States play host to training camps, which supposedly belong to the moderate opposition. Contrary to the claims set out in the Turkish letter, our armed forces are responding to the terrorist organizations ISIL and the Nusrah Front in many parts of Syria, while press correspondents have published pictures of Turkish soldiers exchanging greetings with ISIL members on the border between the two countries.

For years, Syria has repeated that terrorism has no nation, religion or borders. Syria has warned the supporters of terrorism that it would turn against them. Unfortunately, we have recently seen terrorism start to turn against its supporters. If Turkey now feels, four and a half years into the crisis in Syria, that it has a duty to confront terrorism, one might well say "Better late than never". But does Turkey genuinely intend to enforce the relevant Security Council resolutions by fighting ISIL, the Nusrah Front and the other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida? Or is it merely making that claim in order to strike the Kurds in Syria and Iraq or, perhaps, for domestic reasons?

The Syrian Arab Republic is determined to continue combating terrorism and fulfilling its patriotic duty to defend and protect the Syrian people. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to assume their responsibility by prevailing on States to implement the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), and to take deterrent action against State sponsors of the terrorist groups ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. Syria reiterates that the definitive eradication of terrorism requires a collective effort, one that is binding at the regional and international levels and grounded in constructive cooperation and respect for the sovereignty of States and the interests of their peoples.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/575

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 August 2015
English
Original: English/French

Letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 9 July 2015 from Smaïl Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, on behalf of Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, transmitting the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the arrest of Emmanuel Karenzi Karake in London on 20 June 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-14629 (E) 090915

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Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, regarding the arrest in London, on 20 June 2015, of Lieutenant General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, Chief of the National Intelligence and Security Services of the Republic of Rwanda.

This situation is a matter of utmost concern to the African Union, given its serious implications not only for Rwanda, but also for the rest of the African continent. The arrest, which was purportedly executed on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by a Spanish judge, further highlights the challenges brought about by the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction. The abuse of the principle by magistrates and judges from non-African countries is a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African States and constitutes an attempt to subordinate African legal systems to those of non-African States. The African Union has repeatedly pronounced itself on this issue and raised it in relevant international forums.

It is against this background that the African Union Peace and Security Council met in Addis Ababa, on 26 June 2015, to deliberate on the situation. In the communiqué adopted on that occasion, the Peace and Security Council, having condemned the arrest, called for the immediate and unconditional release of Lieutenant General Karenzi Karake by the United Kingdom authorities. The Council also reiterated the long-standing position of the African Union on the issue of universal jurisdiction, calling on the larger international community to respect the sovereignty and dignity of the African countries, as required by international law and conventions.

In forwarding the attached communiqué, I would be most grateful if it could be brought to the attention of the relevant United Nations organs.

(*Signed*) Smaïl **Chergui**
Commissioner, Peace and Security

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 519th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 26 June 2015, adopted the following decision in the wake of the arrest in London, United Kingdom (UK), on 20 June 2015, of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, Chief of the National Intelligence and Security Services of the Republic of Rwanda, who was on an official visit in the UK:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the introductory remarks made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui, and the briefing made by Mrs. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Okello Oryem, Minister of State for International Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, and Professor Githu Muigai, Attorney-General of the Republic of Kenya, as well by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in its capacity as the Chair of the AU;

2. **Recalls** communiqué PSC/MIN/Comm.1 (CLI) adopted at its 151st meeting, held in New York on 22 September 2008, in particular paragraph 5 of the said communiqué, which reaffirmed decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction, adopted by the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008, stressed the need for international justice to be conducted in a transparent and fair manner, in line with the principles of international law, and expressed concern that the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction poses a threat to the efforts aimed at promoting the rule of law and stability, as well as at building strong national and regional institutions;

3. **Further recalls** paragraph 8 of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) calling on all United Nations (UN) Member States, in particular the European Union (EU) Member States, to impose a moratorium on the execution of arrest warrants until all relevant legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the AU, the EU and the UN;

4. **Expresses its deep concern** about the arrest of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by a Spanish Judge, and **considers** it as not only an attack on a Rwandan national, but on Africa as a whole;

5. **Strongly condemns** the blatant violation of the principle of universal jurisdiction by some non-African States against African government officials and its implications for peace and security on the continent, and **stresses** that this abuse threatens to reverse the hard-won security and stability in Rwanda and in Africa as a whole;

6. **Stresses** that the arrest is politically motivated and **underscores** the fact that arrest warrants issued by individual non-African Judges and other non-African national legal systems are a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African States and constitute an attempt to subordinate African legal systems to those of non-African States;

7. **Notes** that Spain's National High Court, on 21 January 2015, overruled Judge Fernando Andreu Merelles of Spain's National Court's (*Audiencia Nacional*) 6 February 2008 indictment of 40 senior Rwandan military officers and nullified all arrest warrants. Council **expresses its dismay** that the UK went ahead with the arrest, despite the decision of Spain's National High Court;

8. **Further notes** that Interpol has not endorsed the Spanish arrest warrants, having issued, in 2008, a certificate to all 40 officers stating that Interpol will not issue Red Notices against them, to avoid breaching its constitutional statutes, which stay away from politically motivated arrest warrants;

9. **Condemns** the arrest as it violates decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI) and the spirit of the agreement of April 2014 between the EU and Africa during the 4th EU-Africa Summit held in Brussels, Belgium, on political dialogue between the EU and Africa to address the issue of the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction once and for all, and **calls for** the immediate and unconditional release of Lieutenant-General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake by the UK authorities;

10. **Expresses concern** at the continued support by certain quarters of the international community to groups that perpetrated genocide and continue to vehicle its toxic ideology, as well as attempts to absolve those who committed genocide in Rwanda and, in this respect, **stresses** that extremist groups should in no way be sanitized;

11. **Calls upon** the international community to respect the sovereignty and dignity of the African Member States, as required by international law and conventions;

12. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally convey this decision to the UK and Spanish authorities, as well as to all the UN and EU Member States, and to further engage them towards the speedy resolution of this matter;

13. **Recommends** to the Assembly of the Union to review the implementation of its decisions on the issue of the principle of universal jurisdiction, with a view to providing further guidance to Member States, the Commission and other AU organs;

14. **Further requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to provide regular updates on the evolution of the situation;

15. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2015/576

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 July 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2217 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to 30 April 2016 and requested me to report to the Council every four months beginning on 1 August 2015. The report provides an update on the situation in the Central African Republic since my report of 1 April 2015 (S/2015/227) and on the implementation of the mandate of MINUSCA.

II. Major developments

A. Political developments

2. The Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation was held from 4 to 11 May. More than 600 representatives, including some 120 women, from the country's 16 prefectures and from different communities, religious backgrounds and ethnicities, including the diaspora and the refugee populations, participated in the historic event. The participants discussed four themes in plenary debates and working groups: peace and security; governance; justice and reconciliation; and economic and social development. The inclusive nature of the Forum marked a significant departure from past dialogue and reconciliation efforts by expanding the discussion on the future of the country beyond Bangui-based political elites.

3. On 11 May, delegates adopted by acclamation the Republican pact for peace, national reconciliation and reconstruction in the Central African Republic, which spells out a set of recommendations based on the Forum's four themes. Discussions in advance of the Forum among representatives of 10 armed groups, the transitional Government and the international community resulted in the signing of a commitment agreement between the Government and the politico-military groups on 23 April by 10 armed groups, and set the stage for the negotiation and signing of an agreement on the principles of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and integration into the uniformed State forces of the Central African Republic. In addition, representatives of 10 armed groups and the transitional Government signed, on 5 May, a commitment of politico-military groups to the

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liberation of children associated with armed forces and groups to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. In the closing stages of the Forum, on 10 May, nine armed groups signed an agreement on the principles of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and integration into the uniformed State forces of the Central African Republic. The Front démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain did not sign, however, stating that it had not been allowed to participate in the discussions on peace and security because of quotas on the number of armed groups in that session.

4. Through my Special Representative for the Central African Republic, Babacar Gaye, along with my Special Representative for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, who also chaired the Forum, the United Nations continued to provide good offices aimed at supporting the conclusion of the political transition. MINUSCA, as a member of the Forum's preparatory and organizing bodies, provided substantial political and logistical support for the Forum. MINUSCA, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), also facilitated local consultations throughout the country in advance of the Forum to ensure the strengthened participation of community representatives. The Mission also provided secretariat support to regular weekly meetings with the country's international partners: the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the European Union, France, the Mediator's team, MINUSCA, the Congo, the United States of America and the World Bank, collectively known as the "Group of Eight".

5. To enable citizen participation in and ownership of the political process, discussions during the Forum were broadcast live across the country through Radio Guira. The station provided around-the-clock coverage and reached citizens in Bambari, Bangui, Bouar, Bossangoa, Bria and Kaga Bandoro.

6. On 23 May, the Transitional Authority established by decree a 25-member follow-up committee, which included seven women, to implement the recommendations of the Forum. The committee membership represents different segments of society, comprising anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka as well as representatives of the diaspora and the international community, including MINUSCA. The committee reports to a steering committee chaired by the Prime Minister and is mandated to establish decentralized structures at the sub-prefecture level. The final reports of the Forum were presented on 2 July to the Head of State of the Transition, who expressed her Government's commitment to the work of the follow-up committee.

7. Meanwhile, at its sixteenth ordinary session, held in N'Djamena on 25 May, the ECCAS Conference of Heads of State and Government authorized the technical extension of the transition to 31 December 2015 in order to permit the Transitional Authority to organize credible and transparent elections before the end of 2015.

8. Efforts to revise the Constitution also continued. During the constitutional review workshop that was held from 3 to 6 July, representatives of Central African civil society, traditional chiefs, magistrates and armed groups worked with representatives of the Transitional Government and the National Transitional Council to make final amendments to the draft constitution. Consistent with the Constitutional Charter, the Transitional Government transmitted to the Constitutional Court, on 15 July, the draft Constitution as amended by workshop participants. MINUSCA continued to support the constitutional review process in order to enable the holding of a constitutional referendum on 4 October, including

by supporting efforts to foster cooperation between the legislative and executive branches.

9. On 6 July, a presidential decree was issued to reduce the number of special advisers in the Prime Minister's Cabinet, while increasing the number of envoys, resulting in a total of 52 Cabinet members, up from 44. The decree also incorporates two new portfolios: one to follow up on the transition road map and the second to liaise with the international forces.

10. On 27 July, the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic met in Addis Ababa. Among the conclusions were the need to uphold the right of refugees to vote in the elections; the importance of respecting the ineligibility clause of the Transitional Charter; and the imperative to respect the electoral calendar. The conclusions also emphasized the need to forge a national consensus on security sector reform and its links to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process. The Group also called upon the Transitional Authority to ensure that the deployment of the Central African Armed Forces was undertaken in full coordination with MINUSCA.

B. Preparations for the elections

11. Notable progress has been made in preparing for the referendum and the elections. That process has been accelerated by the establishment in April of a strategic committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mahamat Kamoun, with the participation of the National Electoral Authority, key government ministers and members of the Group of Eight.

12. On 16 June, the strategic committee adopted a revised electoral calendar, setting the dates for: voter registration (27 June to 27 July); the constitutional referendum (4 October); the first round of combined presidential and legislative elections (18 October); and a second round (22 November), should there be no winner in the first round. In addition, voting centres have been mapped and voter registration materials and equipment delivered. On 29 June, the voter registration process was launched; it was to conclude on 27 July. Meanwhile, as at 15 July, the National Electoral Authority had established 151 local branches and sworn in 1,057 election personnel in the country and abroad.

13. With regard to the participation of refugees in the elections, on 1 June, the Transitional Authority issued a decree identifying the 12 countries in which the National Electoral Authority would establish a total of 16 branches to allow Central Africans living abroad to participate in the constitutional referendum and the presidential election. The strategic committee noted the urgency of negotiating tripartite accords with relevant host countries and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to allow refugees to participate in the electoral process. Despite the rejection by the National Transitional Council of relevant provisions in the draft electoral code, the Constitutional Court decided, on 20 July, to reinstate the right of Central African refugees to vote in the elections.

14. Significant efforts to solicit international support and mobilize funds for the elections notwithstanding, a critical funding gap of $11 million out of the required $36.6 million remains, including a gap of 48 per cent in the basket fund for elections managed by UNDP. Of the estimated $25.7 million pledged,

approximately $11.4 million has been disbursed. Efforts are under way to find mitigating measures that could further reduce the budget, including in-kind contributions and the identification of additional donors.

15. MINUSCA continued to provide logistical and technical support to facilitate the establishment of National Electoral Authority offices inside and outside the country. It also devised security plans for the elections and provided logistical support for transporting electoral materials from Bangui to the regions.

16. In June, the United Nations integrated electoral assistance team (MINUSCA/UNDP) assisted the National Electoral Authority with the deployment of voter registration materials. MINUSCA electoral staff were also deployed to 17 field locations and will continue to reinforce the technical, planning and logistical capacity of local Authority offices. The United Nations has further supported the mapping of voter registration centres and begun to train voter registration experts who will be deployed throughout the country.

17. In support of women's participation in the electoral process, MINUSCA, UNDP and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported the establishment of a national database of women for potential leadership roles in decision-making bodies of the Government.

C. Reconciliation

18. Efforts were undertaken by the Transitional Authority and the United Nations to promote reconciliation and reintegration, in particular for those at risk, including young people. The Ministry of Reconciliation, working closely with the United Nations, focused on establishing local mediation mechanisms. At the national level, UNDP, in close coordination with MINUSCA and with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, supported the implementation of the National Reconciliation Strategy. Efforts to promote reintegration and reconciliation included continued support by MINUSCA and the International Organization for Migration for the voluntary relocation of ex-Séléka elements from their camps in Bangui to their communities of origin or choice.

19. In close coordination with the Transitional Authority and the United Nations country team, MINUSCA initiated labour-intensive income-generating projects for young people at risk in communities affected by conflict. Pilot projects began in Bambari, Bouar, Bria and Kaga Bandoro to employ young people from armed groups and local communities in non-skilled labour initiatives to rehabilitate local infrastructure. In addition, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security announced financial support for a pilot project for social cohesion, conflict prevention and human security to support young people in the Central African Republic.

D. Security situation

20. The security situation in Bangui and key towns continued gradually to improve but, the general situation across the country remained volatile owing to clashes between armed groups, criminal activities and violence relating to the seasonal migration of Fulani (Peuhl) cattle herders. Protection assistance from

MINUSCA, humanitarian actors and the French Sangaris force continued to deter and restrict activities of armed groups, although civilians continued to face security threats, in particular in the western and central parts of the country. Enclaves of vulnerable populations, nearly all Muslim, remained under threat.

21. Armed groups, driven by criminal, economic or political interests, continued to assert control in parts of the country. Anti-Balaka factions dominated the west while ex-Séléka elements controlled areas in the north and east. Elements of the two groups clashed regularly in the central part of the country. The Central African Republic also continued to face threats from other armed groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army in the east, Révolution et Justice in the north and the Front démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain in the west.

22. In Bangui, the security situation stabilized but remained unpredictable, in particular in the city's third, fourth, fifth and eighth districts, where gang-related crime and violence remained problematic. On 17 May, with the complicity of six national gendarmes, the anti-Balaka leader, Eugene Ngaikosset, known as the "butcher of Paoua", escaped from the custody of the national gendarmerie.

23. In the west, the security situation remained challenging, particularly in areas bordering Cameroon and Chad, where anti-Balaka affiliated groups, as well as the Front démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain and Révolution et Justice, continued to pursue criminal activities. MINUSCA continued to provide armed escorts to commercial and humanitarian convoys along the main supply road. MINUSCA also undertook a number of robust operations, including one on 21 May to expel elements of the Front démocratique from the Baboua-Beloko route and another in mid-June in Zoulombo. Those operations resulted in the dismantling of one Front démocratique camp.

24. Attacks by armed groups increased during the reporting period, however, with 13 incidents reported in July. For example, on 3 July, a peacekeeper suffered gunshot wounds during an attack against a MINUSCA-escorted convoy, on 18 July, armed attackers shot at a World Food Programme vehicle, killing the driver, and on 28 July, a peacekeeper was severely wounded in an attack against MINUSCA in Deba village. MINUSCA has taken further steps to address the insecurity and has redeployed additional forces to those areas.

25. In Gamboula-Amada Gaza, Mambere-Kadei prefecture, several significant confrontations between Fulani herders from Cameroon and anti-Balaka groups were reported. On 2 May, armed elements attacked 11 villages, reportedly killing 40 civilians and displacing at least 87 families toward Gamboula, while others took refuge in Cameroon. In response, MINUSCA conducted robust military operations to improve security in the area.

26. In Batangafo, Ouham prefecture, in the central part of the Central African Republic, Operation "Arms-free city" significantly improved security, encouraged the ex-Séléka to vacate public buildings and allowed the displaced population to begin returning to their villages. MINUSCA also discovered an illegal detention facility with 18 detainees, run by the ex-Séléka Union pour la paix en Centrafrique. To date, MINUSCA has secured the release of seven of the detainees; efforts to release the others are continuing.

27. Following a security incident on 8 April involving Mbororo herders and members of the local community, an armed mob of some 600 to 800 individuals

attacked the MINUSCA camp in Kaga Bandoro on 10 April, slightly wounding 10 peacekeepers. In addition, from 14 to 16 May, clashes between Mbororo herders and the local population reportedly resulted in the death of at least nine civilians and the displacement of more than 1,460 people from surrounding villages to Kaga Bandoro. Meanwhile, in Kouango sub-prefecture, south of Bambari, an economic centre between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, Union pour la paix en Centrafrique and anti-Balaka elements clashed in late April and early May, leaving 32 people dead.

28. In the eastern and northern parts of the country, the two main ex-Séléka armed groups, the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique and the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique, continued to assert influence in their areas of control, but attacks against civilians were rare. Activities by the Lord's Resistance Army reportedly increased in the Yalinga area, Haute Kotto prefecture, where the population deserted some villages fearing attacks by the group.

III. Protection of civilians

29. The protection of civilians in response to serious threats of physical violence remained the highest priority task for MINUSCA, which continued to work closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to identify and address protection issues. MINUSCA forces and police continued to intensify protection efforts in priority areas and responded to a number of serious threats to civilians. In Bangui, MINUSCA police and forces, as part of the Joint Task Force, conducted targeted operations to protect civilians by containing the movement of armed elements.

30. Displaced Fulani stranded in Yaloké and in several other areas in the region continued to be subjected to serious violations of human rights, including enslavement, sexual exploitation and other abuses. From 21 to 25 April and 5 to 9 May, respectively, a joint assessment mission and a joint protection team comprising representatives of MINUSCA, the United Nations country team and humanitarian actors visited Ombella-Mboko and Mambere-Kadei prefectures. Those missions resulted in the release of 91 Fulani who had been unlawfully detained or enslaved by anti-Balaka elements. They were resettled under MINUSCA protection.

31. MINUSCA, UNHCR, UNICEF, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other humanitarian partners made use of their good offices role to advocate at the highest levels of the Transitional Authority for the right to freedom of movement for internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic. The effort culminated in a visit on 20 May, led by the Prime Minister and my Deputy Special Representative to Yaloké, during which the Prime Minister publicly confirmed the right to free movement for all Central Africans. Following the visit, MINUSCA, UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs facilitated the safe departure from Yaloké of an estimated 300 Fulani, while UNHCR successfully advocated entry into Cameroon by 23 Fulani who had left by their own means and were stranded in Garoua-Boulai. Early in July, a further 61 Fulani requested to be relocated by UNHCR to Cameroon; 281 Fulani have chosen to remain in Yaloké.

32. The increased presence of Fulani nomads in Ouham prefecture triggered a joint protection mission conducted by MINUSCA and the Transitional Authority in Ben Zambe, Bossangoa and Nana-Bakassa from 6 to 9 July. The assessment was

followed by a joint high-level mission to Nana-Bakassa sub-prefecture on 22 July, led by the Minister of Territorial Administration. The visit was aimed at mitigating the growing risk of community violence resulting from the recent arrival of an ex-Séléka group in the area.

33. In the Kaga Bandoro-Mbres area, MINUSCA, in coordination with the French forces, led two robust operations to reduce conflict between Fulani, ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka elements. Investigations by a joint protection mission in Kouango sub-prefecture, south of Bambari, on 28 April and 8 May, confirmed 36 empty villages, including 27 totally or partially burned down, and reported that the destruction was the result of a cycle of attacks and reprisals by Union pour la paix en Centrafrique and anti-Balaka elements.

34. MINUSCA continued to adjust its military presence in line with its integrated analysis of threats to civilians. The Mission established temporary operating bases in Gamboula, Kuango, Markounda, Mbres and Paoua, all priority protection flashpoints. In June, MINUSCA trained and deployed 24 community liaison assistants to 20 company operating bases to serve as links between the Mission's military component and local communities in order to enhance its early warning and response capability.

IV. Human rights

35. The human rights situation remained of concern throughout the country. All parties to the conflict continued to commit human rights violations, while civilians continued to be affected during intercommunal clashes. Between 1 April and 30 June, MINUSCA documented 208 new incidents, with 240 victims, including 60 women, 24 boys and 10 girls, alongside other allegations still under investigation. Most violations reported to MINUSCA were committed by anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements. Of serious concern are verified cases of arbitrary killings, sexual- and gender-based violence, cruel and inhumane treatment and arbitrary arrest and detention and restrictions on the freedom of movement, in particular of internally displaced persons. Accusations of witchcraft targeted older women and children in particular, resulting in a number of serious abuses and unlawful killings, including by burying victims alive.

36. MINUSCA continued to monitor, investigate and advocate with local and national actors. On 14 May, armed Fulani affiliated with elements of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique attacked the localities of Bissingalé and the waterfall of Nana, in greater Kaga Bandoro. During the attack, at least seven civilians were killed and four seriously injured.

37. Further to recommendations made in the Bangui Forum, MINUSCA organized a workshop for lawyers on 18 and 19 May on the right to truth, reparations and commemoration. The Mission also conducted a two-month awareness-raising campaign on human rights, focusing on peace and social cohesion between communities, due process and the role and importance of the judiciary, with more than 2,500 participants from civil society, including university students, community leaders and community members. During the reporting period, awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 660 members of the national armed forces, including 13 women, in Camp Kassaï, Bangui. Participants received training on human rights principles, standards and instruments and the Mission's human rights mandate.

38. The Independent Expert on Human Rights for the Central African Republic, Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum, conducted her fifth mission to the country from 16 to 24 June. On 30 June, she presented her preliminary report to the Human Rights Council in the presence of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Reconciliation and a representative of the interreligious platform.

V. Conflict-related sexual violence

39. Conflict-related sexual violence continued at unacceptable levels. Armed groups committed sexual- and gender-based violence against civilians across the country, predominantly against women and girls. Internally displaced persons were particularly at risk. Between 1 April and the end of the reporting period, the gender-based violence subcluster assisted at least 216 victims of sexual violence with specialized medical, legal and psychosocial services. In April, the subcluster reported 85 incidents of sexual violence against women and girls in a single prefecture (Nana-Gribrizi) in which most perpetrators were armed elements. In response, MINUSCA dispatched patrols to the affected areas and worked with local actors on raising the awareness of communities.

40. MINUSCA and the United Nations Population Fund together led United Nations efforts on reinforcing joint initiatives on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence, including through the strengthening of existing alert systems and the provision of medical treatment, legal advice and psychosocial support to sexual violence survivors. MINUSCA, through its police component, raised awareness of preventive measures and responsive policing to combat sexual violence. Efforts are currently under way to deploy additional MINUSCA protection officers for women in Bangui and in field offices in Bouar, Bria and Kaga Bandoro.

VI. Child protection

41. MINUSCA and UNICEF continued together to lead the United Nations task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children. In April, 272 children (91 girls and 181 boys) had self-demobilized from the anti-Balaka; they were provided with psychosocial support by UNICEF partners.

42. MINUSCA documented two incidents of the killing of children and 86 child victims of violence, 4 of whom were injured by the explosion of an abandoned grenade and 7 by gunshots. In Bangui, on 3 June, 87 schoolchildren were slightly injured while fleeing the Lycée Boganda, following an armed attack by anti-Balaka elements against MINUSCA forces. During the attack, two military officers serving with the Bangui Joint Task Force were injured, one sustaining gunshot wounds. MINUSCA supported the transport of the children to surrounding hospitals, where they received medical and psychosocial assistance. MINUSCA also identified 62 children, between 13 and 17 years of age, held in detention in prisons in Bangui and subjected to ill-treatment.

43. On 14 May, following the agreement at the Bangui Forum to end the recruitment and use of children by armed forces or groups, 357 children were released in Bambari by the anti-Balaka and 2 by ex-Séléka groups: the Rassemblement patriotique pour le renouveau de la Centrafrique and the Union pour

la paix en Centrafrique. The released children received psychosocial assistance and support for reintegration into their communities of origin.

44. During the reporting period, MINUSCA trained more than 860 officers and soldiers of the national armed forces, local authorities (sous-préfets) and members of civil society on child protection. MINUSCA also established a child protection unit within its police component to facilitate the training of national security forces personnel and increase awareness on child protection.

VII. Humanitarian

45. More than 2.7 million people were still living in dire humanitarian conditions. More than 460,000 Central Africans were refugees in neighbouring countries, an increase from the last reporting period by some 25,000 since January. Meanwhile, 400,000 Central Africans remained displaced within the country: as at 30 June, UNHCR reported 244,819 Central African refugees in Cameroon, 98,281 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 91,211 in Chad and 27,654 in the Congo. New displacements continued to be reported in the Kaga Bandoro area and near the border with Cameroon, an increase caused mainly by insecurity in the border areas, notably Kouango, and recent clashes in border areas between the Central African Republic and Cameroon (Gamboula-Amada-Gaza). Humanitarian resources have been stretched; an estimated $613 million is urgently required to cover the needs of 2 million people in 2015, with only 18 per cent of the required funds received to date.

46. After having doubled the number of humanitarian actors operating in the country and strengthened humanitarian leadership and coordination mechanisms, on 13 May, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations deactivated its level-3 system-wide emergency response for the Central African Republic, which had been in place since December 2013. Subsequently, on 27 May, I appointed my Deputy Special Representative and Resident Coordinator in the Central African Republic also as Humanitarian Coordinator.

VIII. Socioeconomic developments

47. The economy of the Central African Republic remained stagnant, with a growth rate of 1 per cent. Inflation was at 15.3 per cent, owing to the rise in food prices. Because of inflation and the impact of the conflict, 1.5 million people remained in acute food insecurity. Agriculture contributes 50 per cent of the gross domestic product and provides more than 75 per cent of the food consumed in the country. The 2015 budget and revenue projections are not likely to be met, given the financial constraints of the Central African Republic. The cumulative effect of the crisis has affected women and girls in particular, due in large part to chronic insecurity and the erosion of the social fabric and productive capital. More than 75 per cent of the working population relies on income from the agricultural sector and women comprise 81 per cent of the workforce in that sector.

IX. Extension of State authority

48. MINUSCA, in cooperation with the United Nations country team, continued to support the restoration and extension of State authority, including through the rehabilitation and equipping of State offices and buildings in and outside Bangui through the use of quick-impact projects.

49. MINUSCA, in coordination with France and the Ministry of Territorial Administration, trained 50 newly nominated sous-préfets on administrative management and election-related procedures and equipped them and supported their deployment. In April and May, MINUSCA trained préfets and sous-préfets on mediation and conflict resolution practices.

50. MINUSCA, together with relevant agencies of the United Nations country team, continued to support the deployment of national police outside Bangui. The renovation of the national police headquarters in Bangui was completed in May. MINUSCA also carried out joint police activities with the national security forces and the border-airport police.

X. Justice and the rule of law

51. The key recommendations of the Bangui Forum's thematic group on justice and reconciliation were the creation of a national human rights commission, transitional justice mechanisms, a commission on truth, justice, reparation and reconciliation and the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court. MINUSCA provided advice to the national authorities on the implementation of the recommendations.

52. MINUSCA supported the Ministry of Justice in developing a strategic plan to extend the rule of law across the country by gradually reopening courts and detention facilities. With the assistance of MINUSCA, the Ministry deployed magistrates to 18 of the country's 28 courts. Together with UNDP and UN-Women, MINUSCA initiated a joint programme to support jury trials at the Court of Appeals in Bangui. The court has registered 70 cases (with 104 male and 8 female defendants), which include such serious crimes as murder, criminal conspiracy, the mutilation of bodies, the illegal possession of arms and corruption. Further efforts will be devoted to ensuring the prosecution of sexual- and gender-based violence cases, accompanied by the provision of protection and support to victims. The court began hearings on 30 June. In the area of corrections, MINUSCA conducted more than 20 training sessions on prison security for prison workers. The Mission also supported efforts by the judicial authorities to address the backlog of cases, which is the principal cause of prolonged detention.

A. Implementation of urgent temporary measures

53. In accordance with paragraph 32 (f) of Security Council resolution 2217 (2015), MINUSCA arrested more than 85 criminal suspects during the reporting period and more than 365 criminal suspects from 15 September 2014 to 30 June 2015 and facilitated their transfer from various regions to Bangui under its urgent temporary measures mandate, in coordination with other international forces.

Apprehended suspects included individuals accused of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. MINUSCA provided technical advice to the judicial police, prosecutors and investigative magistrates on due process procedures. Two detention facilities (Camp de Roux and Ngaragba prison) are being rehabilitated to isolate the most dangerous detained criminals.

B. Special Criminal Court

54. On 3 June, the Head of State of the Transition promulgated the statute establishing the Special Criminal Court, after the National Transitional Council had integrated the observations of the Constitutional Court into the law. The Court will be composed of 13 national and 12 internationally recruited magistrates. The prosecution office will be headed by an international prosecutor. While the Court will generally apply Central African laws, the death penalty has been excluded. The law does not provide for amnesty or immunity in cases involving crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide. MINUSCA deployed experts to advise the authorities on the resources necessary to make the Court operational, in particular its budget.

XI. Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation

55. Building on the outcome of the Bangui Forum, MINUSCA supported efforts by the Transitional Authority to negotiate with armed groups the terms and modalities of the agreement on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation signed during the Forum. The agreement outlined the eligibility criteria for former combatants; arrangements for being regrouped under a preliminary disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme preceding the launch of the national programme; a timeline for the new national plan on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation; conditions for potential individual integration into the defence and security forces; specific arrangements for vulnerable groups; and the repatriation of foreign combatants.

56. In June, MINUSCA intensified efforts to mobilize funds for preliminary disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation activities and developed an initial project document in collaboration with the Transitional Authority and the World Bank. On the basis of the initial project document, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme will require $28.5 million for the demobilization and community reintegration of an estimated 7,000 combatants from armed groups. In addition, $20 million is required for the implementation of a community violence reduction programme targeting around 70,000 people to complement the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme and address the issue of violence and young people at risk in the communities. Funding has yet to be identified for the programmes.

57. MINUSCA is carrying out programmes to support former combatants with food and installation kits to provide for the basic needs of former combatants and their families. In conjunction with the international community, MINUSCA has set up labour-intensive projects for former combatants to prepare for the launch of the national programme. Efforts to promote voluntary disarmament included support for the relocation of ex-Séléka elements and families gathered in the Support and

Service Batallion, the Operational Defence of the Territory Regiment and the Béal camps in Bangui, with financial support from the Peacebuilding Fund. MINUSCA has set up a disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation joint task force with the Transitional Authority and the international community, which is engaged in a large awareness-raising campaign in advance of the extension of the pre-disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation activities to the 16 targeted locations.

Weapons and ammunitions management

58. During the reporting period, MINUSCA retrieved 995 unsafe weapons and items of ammunition in Bangui and evaluated 99 weapons seized in the capital and other cities, including Bria. Following negotiations, facilitated by MINUSCA, between the ex-Séléka and the Transitional Authority, the United Nations Mine Action Service and MINUSCA, on 4 July in Bangui, removed a stockpile of some 6 tons of explosives from Camp Béal for destruction. The range-of-danger perimeter in case of explosion thus decreased from 400 to 190 m. On 29 April, the Mission initiated the construction of a permanent armoury in Camp Kassaï, with the capacity to store 1,000 weapons.

59. The Mission conducted 692 education sessions on the risk of weapons and explosives for 19,213 children and 8,947 adults in Bangui. To date, 35,164 people have received such briefings. The Mission also completed "training-of-trainers" sessions on counter-improvised explosive device awareness and certified 19 MINUSCA personnel as trainers.

XII. Security sector reform and vetting

60. MINUSCA continued to provide strategic advice and to co-chair the Technical Committee on Security Sector Reform under the Strategic Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and Security Sector Reform that had adopted the principles of the future defence forces and the criteria for the integration of former combatants. As at 15 July, MINUSCA, in cooperation with the French forces, the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic and the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, had assisted the Ministry of Defence in the preliminary verification of some 2,130 national armed forces personnel.

61. UNDP, in close cooperation with MINUSCA, completed the rehabilitation of Camp Kassaï, the military hospital in Camp Oubru in Bangui and the Camp de Roux high-security prison and three gendarmeries brigades in Bangui. MINUSCA also supported the development of a human resources management database for the national armed forces.

62. On 12 May, the Committee of Ministers of Defence of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region held an extraordinary meeting in Luanda. Among the key recommendations were the establishment of a military experts committee and its dispatch to the Central African Republic to assess the country's military needs.

XIII. Coordination of international assistance

63. MINUSCA, together with the United Nations country team, continued to support the Transitional Authority in strengthening international assistance coordination mechanisms to better align multiple approaches by international partners. The United Nations helped the aid coordination unit of the Transitional Authority to develop a database and a system for evaluating international assistance. In that context, the United Nations continued to support the realization of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States initiative, including through established national structures. As a result, Bangui Forum participants adopted the New Deal approach and the recommendation on the need to outline specific commitments between the country and its development partners.

64. On 26 May, the European Union convened a high-level conference on the Central African Republic in Brussels to present the first results of the European Union "Bêkou" Trust Fund and its future goals. The meeting resulted in a total of €377,868 in pledges (€180,945 from the European Union and its member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands) and €196,923 from the African Development Bank, the African Union, the World Bank, Switzerland and the United States of America). Only a portion of the funds announced reflected new funds.

XIV. Deployment of the Mission

A. Military

65. As at 14 July, MINUSCA had completed the deployment of some 9,389 military personnel, or approximately 87.3 per cent of the total authorized military strength of MINUSCA of 10,750 troops (including 480 staff officers and military observers). The figures include the deployment of 10 of 11 infantry battalions and most of the necessary enablers, including three engineer companies, two level II hospitals, two signal companies and two helicopter units. However, gaps in contingent-owned equipment continue to pose a significant challenge for certain contingents that have yet to meet United Nations standards.

66. With the increased number of troops in theatre, MINUSCA continued to extend its military presence throughout the country, including in Vakaga prefecture. The Mission maintained 46 operating bases comprising 35 permanent and 11 temporary bases.

B. Police

67. As at 14 July, MINUSCA comprised 307 individually deployed police officers (51 women and 256 men) or 76 per cent of the total authorized strength of 400 police officers, and 1,248 personnel of formed police units, including 66 women. Overall, 75 per cent of the total of 2,080 authorized police personnel and 9 of 10 formed police units have been deployed. The deployment of police officers outside Bangui continued, with officers deployed in Bossangoa, Bouar and Bria and one fully formed police unit deployed in Bouar.

C. Mission concept and revised component concepts

68. The revised mission concept has taken into account new elements on the prioritization and phasing of tasks set out in resolution 2217 (2015). In that context, the immediate priority of MINUSCA is to support activities that will conclude the political transition by the end of 2015 (phase III), leading to long-term support for stabilization activities (phase IV), when a newly elected Government is installed. The prioritization of mandated tasks is reflected in the prioritization of the resources of the Mission in each phase.

69. In line with the mission concept, the military concept of operations is being adjusted, taking into consideration specific demands to protect civilians as well as provide military support to the electoral process and the extension of State authority.

70. MINUSCA and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations undertook an assessment from 18 to 27 May to assess measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Bangui Joint Task Force. Recommendations focused on strengthening the command and control structure of the Task Force, increasing the performance of the patrols and identifying resource and logistical gaps hampering its effective functioning. The need for streamlined procedures and common terminology between military and police personnel was also highlighted as a challenge.

71. MINUSCA is also finalizing its revised concept of operations for the police, taking into consideration lessons learned since 15 September 2014. All formed police units will deploy in Bangui, except for one in Bouar. MINUSCA continued to support the national security forces in maintaining law and order in its areas of deployment and protecting civilians, especially the return of the displaced persons at Bangui M'Poko airport to their places of origin.

D. Status-of-forces agreement

72. The Mission has been experiencing challenges with regard to compliance with the status-of-forces agreement by the Central African authorities. The problem of the imposition of taxes and duties on the importation of goods by MINUSCA has been resolved. Other issues remain, however, including the imposition of a tax on fuel, Mission equipment and supplies and on the personal effects of staff, as well as a 12 per cent per annum registration fee on residential leases.

XV. Safety and security of United Nations staff

73. United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel operated under increasing threats relating to armed conflict and criminality. The overall security threat levels for United Nations civilian personnel remained substantial in the parts of the country in which armed groups were present. Following a relative reduction in the number of security incidents affecting humanitarian personnel, an increase was observed in the central part of the country in June. During the reporting period, MINUSCA peacekeepers were attacked or ambushed on 20 occasions, resulting in injuries to 15 staff members.

XVI. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

74. During the reporting period, allegations of misconduct against MINUSCA personnel were reported, including some very serious allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including against children, as well as the excessive use of force, which on 10 June led to the death of two civilians. In response, MINUSCA took immediate action and repatriated the peacekeepers involved in the case, without prejudice to the investigation and prosecution in their home country. The Force Commander and the Police Commissioner issued directives to tighten command and control and emphasize the United Nations standards of conduct. MINUSCA also reiterated to all personnel the applicable rules and regulations, including the Organization's zero-tolerance policy, and stepped up its activities in providing training, including refresher training, to existing military and police personnel. The Mission has reinforced preventive measures, including by conducting regular spot checks of areas and places conducive to sexual misconduct. Risk assessments of military and police installations are also under way. The implementation of the United Nations strategy for victim assistance, in coordination with in-country partners, remains a priority.

XVII. Financial aspects

75. In its resolution 69/257 B, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $814.1 million for the maintenance of MINUSCA for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

76. As at 16 July 2015, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for MINUSCA amounted to $135.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $1,740.2 million.

77. As at 16 July 2015, amounts owed to Member States contributing troops to MINUSCA totalled $26.8 million. The reimbursements for troop costs and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the periods up to 30 April 2015 and 31 March 2015, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XVIII. Observations

78. The Bangui Forum marked an historic milestone in the Central African transition and the country's path towards long-term peace and stability. I congratulate the people of the Central African Republic for their courage and for their determination to take their destiny into their own hands. The Republican Pact for Peace, National Reconciliation and Reconstruction should serve as a road map for the country's future. The agreements on the principles for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and on halting the use of children in armed conflict were also significant achievements.

79. I urge all national stakeholders, with the support of regional and international partners, to ensure that the outcomes of the Forum meet the expectations of citizens. Priority areas include advancing the electoral process; the disarmament,

demobilization and reintegration or repatriation of members of armed groups and the release of the children among their ranks; security sector reform; efforts to combat impunity; and the promotion of the rule of law. In this regard, I urge the Transitional Authority and relevant national actors to take courageous steps to implement the recommendations. I appeal to the international community to sustain their efforts and provide the required support in this regard for the long term.

80. I welcome the efforts to establish a commission on truth, justice, reparations and reconciliation as well as the ongoing local reconciliation initiatives. Such efforts will be critical tools for healing the social fabric of the country and for addressing the core grievances of the victims of the conflict as well as marginalized populations. The integration of women's perspectives into all these areas will be vital to securing a long-lasting and sustainable peace. The United Nations, in tandem with international partners, will play a leading role in supporting the establishment of such mechanisms. While reconciliation is a process that takes time, I call upon all national actors to continue to actively promote and work for reconciliation at all levels of society.

81. I commend the Transitional Authority for its promulgation of the law on the establishment of the Special Criminal Court and for their continued commitment to combating impunity. Financial and technical support from regional and international partners will be critical to the establishment and operationalization of the Court. I encourage the Transitional Authority to continue efforts to develop, through an inclusive and participatory process, a wider strategy for combating impunity and ensuring justice for the victims of crimes committed in the Central African Republic. Such a strategy should ensure complementarity between judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. The United Nations stands ready to further provide support to the judicial authorities in this regard.

82. In the coming months, it will be important to move forward on the implementation of the agreement on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation, signed by the Government and armed groups at the Bangui Forum. The agreement is fragile because of continued divisions within, and shifting alliances among, armed groups. All armed groups should seize this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to peace and their engagement in the future of their country, and enter the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process. I also urge all parties to intensify efforts to defuse tensions through confidence-building measures and to continue dialogue to further advance the peace process. MINUSCA, through its good offices, will continue to remain engaged with all parties concerned to broaden the gathering together of former combatants in areas outside Bangui in order to help to improve the security situation before the elections. Nevertheless, spoilers will not be allowed to derail the process and the broader implementation of the Bangui Forum outcomes.

83. Meanwhile, concerted international efforts and close consultations between the Central African authorities and their partners are critical for advancing holistic and sustainable security sector reform, including that of the armed forces and the police into multi-ethnic, regionally balanced and professional security forces, and their strengthening in accordance with international standards. A key element will be to ensure civilian control of all defence and security forces.

84. I wish to commend the Transitional Authority for its commitment and the progress achieved towards the holding of the constitutional referendum and

presidential and legislative elections before the end of 2015. The upcoming elections will not only mark the end of the transition, but also a new beginning for the Central African Republic, an opportunity for all Central Africans to participate in the construction of a new future for their country, for and by themselves. The institutions that will be elected will have the great responsibility of healing the deep wounds opened by the conflict, restoring a functioning State throughout the territory and driving a recovery process that should benefit all on an equitable basis. It will be vital, as the Central Africans work towards those goals, for the international community to remain at their side.

85. The United Nations and international partners are preparing to coordinate and provide logistical and security support for the elections. I appreciate the efforts by international partners and national stakeholders to remain committed to advancing the electoral process. Areas of concern, however, persist. I call upon all national stakeholders to ensure the swift adoption and application of the revised electoral code to ensure inclusive elections, and for this legal framework to be accompanied by specific measures to allow all Central African citizens, including refugees and displaced persons, the opportunity to exercise their franchise in the upcoming elections. To this end, I commend MINUSCA and the Group of Eight for intensifying their engagement with national stakeholders to ensure that no Central African is left behind at this crucial juncture in the country's history.

86. I also urge all actors in the electoral process, including the Transitional Authority and the National Electoral Authority, to continue to accelerate preparations for the holding of free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections. While I am encouraged by the significant progress achieved to date, I remain deeply concerned about the financial gaps that risk undermining and derailing the important progress made in the political process. Our support is even more critical at this point in the Central African transition. Funding is also critically needed to implement the outcomes of the Bangui Forum, in particular disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as reconciliation efforts and the establishment of the Special Criminal Court.

87. I therefore urge Member States to step forward and bridge the relatively small funding gap remaining for the organization of elections and to support the other essential processes that will consolidate peace and enable both a successful end for the transition and a sound basis for future development. We cannot let lack of funding undo the remarkable political progress made. The country stands at a critical juncture. We must together do our utmost to ensure long-term peace and stability for the Central African people. This will require considerable effort and responsibility on the part of both the Central Africans and the international community. I count on the Transitional Authority, neighbouring States and the United Nations family and its partners to redouble their efforts to ensure a successful and peaceful transition.

88. The security situation remains volatile, continued improvements in Bangui and in key towns notwithstanding. I remain deeply concerned about continued serious human rights violations and abuses, including acts of sexual- and gender-based violence, perpetrated against civilians with impunity. The crisis also continues to have regional and multidimensional consequences, with almost half a million refugees in the neighbouring countries.

89. I therefore call upon all parties to protect and respect human rights and stop the violence and harassment, especially against the most vulnerable. More than 36,000 people, predominantly Muslims, remain in seven enclaves throughout the country, most individuals with limited access to basic services. This situation cannot continue. I am encouraged by the Transitional Authority's recent efforts to facilitate the movement of displaced persons who wish to leave enclave areas such as Yaloké. I call upon the Transitional Authority to ensure freedom of movement for all without discrimination, including those remaining in enclaves, and to uphold the obligations of the Central African Republic under international human rights law.

90. I am also concerned about the continuing serious humanitarian situation. More than 2.7 million people, or half of the total population, are in need of assistance and protection, while close to 1 million people remain displaced inside and outside the country. Although the presence of and escorts by MINUSCA continue to expand areas for humanitarian activities, attacks by armed groups continue to prevent assistance from reaching those most in need. Humanitarian needs also continue to surpass available resources because of a lack of funding. Considering the extreme vulnerability of the civilian population, I wish to reiterate the need for timely and sustained support to humanitarian operations, and call upon donors to respond generously to the humanitarian appeal for the Central African Republic.

91. I deplore and condemn in the strongest terms the reported sexual abuse of children by international forces deployed to the Central African Republic to protect them. The United Nations is following up on the status of investigations regarding allegations against the French forces and the forces of the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic. I have also initiated an independent external review to assess the United Nations handling of the allegations. I will continue all efforts necessary to ensure appropriate and more timely action to bring the perpetrators to justice. I am seriously concerned about recent allegations of exploitation and abuse by MINUSCA personnel. MINUSCA has taken swift action to ensure that thorough and prompt investigations into those serious allegations are conducted by relevant Member States or the United Nations. The United Nations is also ensuring that the needs of victims of abuse are met, in coordination with in-country partners, through its strategy for victim assistance. I urge on all concerned troop- and police-contributing countries to United Nations and non-United Nations operations to take preventive measures and to provide timely and adequate responses.

92. I am grateful to my Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, Babacar Gaye, for his tireless efforts. I am deeply appreciative of the work by the personnel of MINUSCA, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian country team in a dangerous and unpredictable environment. I should like to reiterate my deepest condolences to the countries and families of United Nations staff and humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty in the Central African Republic. I am also grateful to my Special Representative for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, for his role in international mediation on the Central African Republic. I should like to thank the African Union, troop- and police-contributing countries, the ECCAS Conference, the European Union, the World Bank, international partners and multilateral and non-governmental organizations for their continued efforts to end the suffering of Central Africans and to work with them towards a better future.

Map No. 4522 Rev.4 UNITED NATIONS
July 2015

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

19-19

N2015476

United Nations A/70/218–S/2015/577

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Item 77 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Security Council
Seventieth year

Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and to the members of the Security Council the twentieth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, submitted by the President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda in accordance with article 32 of its statute (see Security Council resolution 955 (1994), annex), which states:

> "The President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda shall submit an annual report of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the Security Council and to the General Assembly."

* A/70/150.

15-12744 (E) 240815

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Letter of transmittal

31 July 2015

I have the honour to submit the twentieth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, dated 31 July 2015, to the General Assembly and the Security Council, pursuant to article 32 of the statute of the International Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Vagn **Joensen**
President

President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

President of the Security Council
United Nations
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Twentieth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Summary

The present annual report outlines the activities of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

During the past year, the Tribunal marked its twentieth anniversary and continued to work towards closure and transfer its archives and residual functions to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber rendered three judgements concerning four persons, bringing the total number of persons whose judgements have been completed at the appellate level to 55. The Tribunal marked the completion before 31 December 2014 of its appeals work in all but one case, with the final judgement on appeal from a trial at the Tribunal, in the multi-accused *Nyiramasuhuko et al.* (*Butare*) case, concerning six accused, expected in the fourth quarter of 2015. The work at the trial level had been completed in 2012.

The Office of the Prosecutor focused on prosecuting the remaining appeals, handing over of responsibility for tracking of fugitives to the Mechanism and providing support for national authorities in the prosecution of crimes relating to the genocide. Continuous support was also extended to Rwandan authorities to assist them in handling the cases transferred from the Tribunal. The Office of the Prosecutor also placed an emphasis on capacity-building and sharing of best practices during the reporting period, releasing several best practices manuals.

The Registry continued to provide a high level of administrative and judicial support to the Tribunal and to the Mechanism. The Registry ensured the cooperation and assistance of Member States with the Tribunal and handed over the Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre to the Government of Rwanda. The Division of Administrative Support Services continued to ensure the efficient management of the Tribunal's downsizing process and handover to the Mechanism, while at the same time preparing staff members for a life after the Tribunal.

All organs of the Tribunal are devoting their best efforts to completing the work of the Tribunal expeditiously, and a smooth transition to the Mechanism is now well under way. Closure of the Tribunal is projected for 31 December 2015 with only liquidation of the Tribunal's assets expected to continue after that time.

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I. Introduction

1. The present twentieth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 outlines the activities of the Tribunal for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

2. The Tribunal, through the Office of the President, the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry, has continued its efforts to meet the goals of its completion strategy, as endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1503 (2003), with intense appeals judgement drafting and other activities in the Appeals Chamber remaining as the Tribunal's core focus. During the reporting period, the Tribunal continued to hand over responsibilities to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the Arusha branch of which commenced operations on 1 July 2012. The smooth transition to the Mechanism is now well under way.

II. Activities of the Tribunal

3. As at 30 June 2015, the Tribunal consists of the Trial Chamber, the Appeals Chamber, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry. The President, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark), the Prosecutor, Hassan Bubacar Jallow (the Gambia) and the Registrar, Bongani Majola (South Africa) remain the same since the previous reporting period. The terms of the Tribunal's President and Prosecutor, who also serve as the duty judge of the Arusha branch and the Prosecutor, respectively, of the Mechanism, expire on 31 December 2015 in line with projections for completion of the Tribunal's judicial work and closure.

A. Activities of the President

1. Judicial activity

4. During the reporting period, the President issued orders and decisions on a variety of matters in his role as both President of the Tribunal and duty judge of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism. Those decisions and orders related to matters including State cooperation, review of indictments for contempt of court and false testimony, and witness protection review related to both the Tribunal and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The President has also appointed a bench, including himself and two Appeals Chamber judges, to review the four contempt of court/false testimony cases currently pending before the Tribunal in order to determine whether any action is required in these fugitive cases prior to the Tribunal's closure.

2. Completion strategy

5. In close cooperation with the Prosecutor and the Registrar, the President has continued to implement the Tribunal's completion strategy. On 10 December 2014 and 3 June 2015, the President presented the six-monthly completion strategy reports to the Security Council. The work at the trial level was completed in

December 2012 and only one appeal remains. In the course of the reporting period, the Tribunal issued three judgements at the appeals level concerning four persons.

6. Only one appeal from a trial judgement remains, and it is projected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2015, with formal closure of the Tribunal expected by the end of 2015 pending only liquidation activities thereafter. Replacement of departing staff members proved difficult during the reporting period owing to replacement being a lengthy process, which even in a best-case scenario of swift and smooth replacement cannot compensate for the continuous loss of institutional memory. The Tribunal, through the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, reiterated its call upon the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to work with the Registrar of the Tribunal in order to find practicable solutions to address the staffing situation.

7. The Security Council, in its resolution 1966 (2010) establishing the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, requested the Secretary-General to make the practical arrangements necessary for the commencement of the Mechanism's operations. Under the direction of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, the Tribunal has worked closely with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Mechanism to implement that mandate. The Mechanism successfully opened its Arusha branch on 1 July 2012, following which most judicial and prosecutorial functions have now been handed over from the Tribunal to the Mechanism. The remaining functions are being handed over on a continuous basis at the appropriate time, as agreed upon by the Tribunal and the Mechanism and in line with the Transitional Arrangements and resolution 1966 (2010).

3. Diplomatic relations and other representation

8. The President maintained regular contact with United Nations Headquarters and the diplomatic community in the host country, at the seat of the United Nations, and in other countries. The United Nations Secretariat, and in particular the Office of Legal Affairs, provided important legal advice and diplomatic support to ensure smooth cooperation between the Tribunal, the Security Council and the General Assembly. During the reporting period, the Office of the President also organized workshops on best practices and lessons learned by the ad hoc and hybrid international tribunals and the International Criminal Court. Reports from the two workshops, held in The Hague in September 2014 and May 2015, will be used by the international tribunals and the International Criminal Court to continue the work towards improving efficiency in the administration of international justice.

9. On the occasion of their briefings before the Security Council, both the President and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal participated in meetings of the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals. That allowed for comprehensive and open discussions with the legal advisers of the members of the Security Council. The Registrar also participated in the June 2015 meeting of the Informal Working Group in order to provide detailed information on the plans for liquidation of the Tribunal's assets following closure.

10. The President continued to work closely with the Registrar to engage in diplomatic efforts towards the relocation of persons acquitted by the Tribunal and those convicted persons who have completed their sentences and have been released from the United Nations Detention Facility in the United Republic of Tanzania through 31 December 2014, at which time the Mechanism assumed that

responsibility. The President and the Registrar continue to work with the Mechanism with the shared goal of increasing cooperation of Member States on the issue of relocation, which will be required in order for the Mechanism to be successful in implementing its strategic plan for relocation that was presented to the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals in June 2015.

B. Activities of coordination mechanisms

1. Coordination Council

11. The Coordination Council, consisting of the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, met regularly to discuss issues affecting the Tribunal, such as the completion strategy, closure plans, staffing, cooperation with the Mechanism and budgetary and financial matters.

2. Plenary session

12. During the reporting period, the Tribunal held its twenty-fifth and final plenary session on 13 May 2015 at The Hague, the Netherlands. The session featured the re-election of the President for a term until 31 December 2015 to coincide with his term of office as judge, as well as the amendment of rule 18 (B) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

3. Rules Committee

13. The Rules Committee submits or discusses proposals for amendments of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. During the reporting period, the Committee submitted a proposal for addition of text to rule 18 (B), which was considered and adopted at the twenty-fifth plenary session of judges. The text adopted at the plenary session and the most up-to-date version of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence may be found on the Tribunal's website.

C. Activity of the Chambers

1. Composition of the Chambers

14. The Chambers currently comprise one Trial Chamber and one Appeals Chamber and are currently composed of nine permanent judges in the Appeals Chamber and one ad litem judge serving as President.

15. The one remaining ad litem judge, President Vagn Joensen (Denmark), is a member of the Trial Chamber. During the reporting period two permanent judges of the Appeals Chamber who were from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda demitted office upon completion of their work: Judges William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mehmet Güney (Turkey). One permanent judge of the Appeals Chamber who was from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia also demitted office during the reporting period upon completion of his work: Judge Patrick Robinson (Jamaica).

16. Following the above-described departures, nine permanent judges currently sit on the Appeals Chamber. Four of them are from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, namely, Judges Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar), Khalida Rachid

Khan (Pakistan), Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation) and Mandiaye Niang (Senegal). The five other permanent judges on the Appeals Chamber are from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, namely, Judges Theodor Meron (United States of America) as presiding judge, Fausto Pocar (Italy), Liu Daqun (China), Carmel Agius (Malta) and Koffi Afande (Togo).

2. Principal activity of the Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber

(a) Trial Chamber

17. The substantive work before the Trial Chamber is complete.

(b) Appeals Chamber

18. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber was seized of appeals from four judgements concerning 10 persons. The Appeals Chamber rendered three final judgements concerning four persons, and 25 pre-appeal orders and decisions.

Appeal judgements: *Karemera and Ngirumpatse*, *Nizeyimana* and *Nzabonimana*

19. On 21 December 2011, Trial Chamber III convicted Édouard Karemera, former Minister of the Interior and Communal Development, and Matthieu Ngirumpatse, former National Party Chairman of the Mouvement républicain national pour la démocratie et le développement (MRND), of direct and public incitement to commit genocide, genocide, extermination and rape as crimes against humanity, and murder as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II. The Trial Chamber sentenced Karemera and Ngirumpatse to life imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals in February 2014 and pronounced its judgement on 29 September 2014. The Appeals Chamber affirmed Karemera's and Ngirumpatse's convictions, while it reversed certain findings of the Trial Chamber, and also affirmed their sentences of life imprisonment.

20. On 19 June 2012, Trial Chamber III convicted Ildéphonse Nizeyimana, former captain in the Rwandan army, of genocide, extermination and murder as crimes against humanity, and murder as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II thereto. The Trial Chamber sentenced Nizeyimana to life imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals in April 2014 and pronounced its judgement on 29 September 2014. The Appeals Chamber reversed Nizeyimana's convictions based on some events, including his conviction for extermination as a crime against humanity, but affirmed his convictions for genocide and murder as a crime against humanity and as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II thereto. The Appeals Chamber set aside the life sentence and imposed a sentence of 35 years of imprisonment.

21. On 31 May 2012, Trial Chamber III convicted Callixte Nzabonimana, former Minister of Youth and Associative Movements, of instigating genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and extermination as a crime against humanity, sentencing him to life imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals in April 2014 and pronounced its judgement on 29 September 2014. While reversing Nzabonimana's convictions based on certain events, the Appeals Chamber affirmed his convictions for

instigating genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and extermination as a crime against humanity. The Appeals Chamber also affirmed his life sentence.

Further appeals from judgement

22. The delivery of the three appeal judgements in September 2014 brought the total number of appeal judgements rendered by the Tribunal to 44, disposing of appeals concerning 55 persons. Deliberations are now in progress in the final case, *Nyiramasuhuko et al.* (also known as the *Butare* case), which concerns six convicted persons, in which the Appeals Chamber heard oral arguments in April 2015.

D. Activities of the Office of the Prosecutor

23. During the reporting period, the work of the Office of the Prosecutor focused on three main areas: completion of remaining appeals and other ongoing litigation; support on a double-hatting basis for core work undertaken by the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism; and compilation of lessons learned and best practices. As progress in completing its work continued, the Office of the Prosecutor implemented additional staff reductions, resulting in the separation of 15 staff members effective 31 December 2014 and a further separation of nine staff members effective 15 May 2015. With this reduction in staffing, the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism continued to assume greater responsibility for all ongoing prosecutorial functions.

24. On 29 September 2014, the Appeals Chamber returned final judgement in the *Karemera and Ngirumpatse*, *Nizeyimana* and *Nzabonimana* cases. It affirmed most of the defendants' substantive convictions for genocide and other crimes, and confirmed the trial chambers' imposition of life sentences against Karemera, Ngirumpatse and Nzabonimana but reduced Nizeyimana's life sentence to 35 years' imprisonment in the light of its reversal of some of his convictions.

25. Litigation in connection with the Tribunal's last appeal, the *Butare* case, continued. As previously reported, the *Butare* case is comprised of six defence appeals and one prosecution appeal. It has generated an unusually high volume of motions before the Appeals Chamber, based primarily on alleged disclosure violations and defence requests for the admission of additional evidence on appeal. The Appeals Chamber has now decided all but one of the pending motions, denying most requests for relief except for allowing the admission of two pieces of additional evidence on appeal. On 26 May 2015, the prosecution filed rebuttal evidence in response to this newly admitted evidence. It is not yet certain whether any further hearing will be required to address this newly admitted evidence. The only motion pending at present before the Appeals Chamber is a defence motion, filed on 4 June 2015, to strike the prosecution's rebuttal evidence.

26. The other principal litigation function completed by the Office of the Prosecutor during the reporting period involved the review and update of disclosure obligations in all completed cases. In the process, the Office of the Prosecutor prepared comprehensive records of all past disclosure, search criteria, and analysis for handover to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism. Legal staff within the Office of the Prosecutor continued to assist on a double-hatting basis the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism in carrying out other key transitional functions,

including conducting ongoing litigation and archiving official records. In terms of litigation, the Office of the Prosecutor assisted Mechanism prosecutors with defence of the appeal in *The Prosecutor v. Augustin Ngirabatware* case, and responding to multiple requests for the revocation of cases referred to national jurisdictions for trial. On 18 December 2014, the Mechanism Appeals Chamber affirmed Ngirabatware's convictions for direct and public incitement to commit genocide, as well as for instigating and aiding and abetting genocide. It reversed Ngirabatware's conviction for rape as a crime against humanity, and reduced his sentence from 35 to 20 years' imprisonment.

27. With regard to the referral of cases to national jurisdictions, the Office of the Prosecutor supported the Mechanism in investigating and responding to requests for revocation of referral orders filed by Bernard Munyagishari and Jean Uwinkindi. On 8 April 2015, the President of the Mechanism dismissed Munyagishari's third request for revocation, without prejudice to refiling. On 13 May 2015, the President of the Mechanism appointed a trial chamber to consider Uwinkindi's request for revocation. On 22 May 2015, the pretrial judge assigned to Uwinkindi's request issued a scheduling order for briefing in connection with the revocation proceedings. Briefs have not yet been filed.

28. The Office of the Prosecutor also continued to transfer to the Mechanism's Office of the Prosecutor responsibility for the management and preservation of its official records and archives. In April 2015, the entire vault of the Office of the Prosecutor containing the evidence collection was transferred to the Arusha branch of the Mechanism's Office of the Prosecutor. The total number of transfers since the last report amounted to 1,309 boxes of evidence records measuring 187 linear metres, 1,575 boxes of Prosecution records measuring 225 linear metres and 539 boxes consisting of investigation files measuring 77 linear metres. That makes it 3,423 boxes of archival paper records measuring 489 linear metres transferred to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has transferred a further 425 video tapes of evidence consisting of 402 hours, digitized and migrated in a new higher format for long-term preservation. The processing of prosecutorial records continues, with the appraisal and security classification of all records of the Office of the Prosecutor, until the delivery of the *Butare* appeal judgement.

29. The last main area of work undertaken by the Office of the Prosecutor during the reporting period related to the preservation of lessons learned and best practices. On 4 and 5 November 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor hosted the Seventh Colloquium of International Prosecutors. The Colloquium was part of broader legacy events organized by the Tribunal to mark its twentieth anniversary and attracted nearly 100 international and national prosecutors to consider ways of promoting accountability at the national level. On 11 February 2015, the Office of the Prosecutor released a best practices manual on the referral of international criminal cases to national jurisdictions. An updated digest of Appeals Chamber judgements of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was completed in June 2015. Work on other projects, including a summary of factual findings from all Tribunal judgements, remains under way and is anticipated to be completed in time for the Tribunal's planned closing event. Upon closure, the Office of the Prosecutor also shall submit a formal closing report to the Security Council, detailing many of the key challenges and accomplishments it has faced over the past 20 years of operation.

E. Activities of the Registry

1. Office of the Registrar

30. The Office of the Registrar is responsible, inter alia, for providing support to the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor, including providing diplomatic liaison with Member States on a variety of issues, including those designed to meet the requirements of both the defence teams and the Office of the Prosecutor. It is also responsible for the administration of the Tribunal, including human resources and financial management. During the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the Office of the Registrar provided effective court management and filing services to both organs of the Tribunal as well as the Appeals Chamber. It supported the holding of the oral hearings in the *Butare* case as well as judicial filings involving pending contempt cases. It also continued to provide administrative support to defence lawyers, including securing cooperation from Member States.

31. During the period under review, the main activities of the Office of the Registrar focused on supporting the conclusion of the remaining appeals, engaging Member States on a variety of issues, providing support to the Mechanism and preparing the records of the Tribunal for archiving and handover to the Mechanism necessary to achieve an orderly closure of the Tribunal.

32. The Office of the Registrar continued to act as the channel of communication between the Tribunal and the diplomatic community. As such, the Office maintained high-level diplomatic contacts with Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. During the reporting period, the Office of the Registrar transmitted more than 114 notes verbales and other correspondence related to the operations of the Tribunal, in particular, to secure support and cooperation from Member States with respect to the remaining appeal cases and the relocation of the acquitted and released persons. The function of relocating and looking after the acquitted and released persons was transferred to the Mechanism on 1 January 2015. The Registry also dealt with a number of inquiries and requests for legal assistance from national jurisdictions.

33. The Office of the Registrar also assisted the Mechanism with its function of monitoring the cases of *Uwinkindi* and *Munyagishari* that were referred to Rwanda for trial, as well as the two cases referred to France.

34. The Registrar continued to work closely with the President to deploy all efforts to find host countries for the now eight remaining acquitted persons and three released convicts. In this regard, until the end of 2014 when the function was handed over to the Mechanism, the Registrar visited a number of Member States in Africa, Europe and South America and also engaged the Government of Rwanda and the African Union with the aim of finding a solution to the problem of relocation. During the period under review, the Tribunal has continued to encounter obstacles in relocating these individuals, though there has been one positive development to report. In September 2014, Belgium granted a family reunion visa to one acquitted person, General Augustin Ndindiliyimana, and allowed him to move to Belgium immediately. The Tribunal will continue until its closure to assist the Mechanism in implementing its strategic plan to find a sustainable solution to this issue.

35. The Tribunal welcomed in Arusha a total of 1,732 visitors, including high-level United Nations and government officials, academics, civil society,

non-governmental organizations and the general public, during the reporting period. The Office of the Registrar also managed the wide dissemination of information about the Tribunal's activities by means of press meetings, newsletters and press releases as well as the website, films and information brochures in English, French and Kinyarwanda. During the period under review, the Office of the Registrar introduced some public information literature in the Kiswahili language, the most popular language in the East and Central African region, to further promote the work of the Tribunal. Through its External Relations Communication and Outreach Unit, the Office distributed more than 5,000 copies of the Tribunal's Cartoon Book as well as more than 3,500 copies of other brochures in English, French and Kiswahili, which is part of the Tribunal's youth sensitization project in the five East African countries, namely, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. It also briefed the more than 1,700 visitors, including students, academics, military officers, media practitioners and government and non-government officials as well as members of the public, who visited and toured the Tribunal. Media outreach events and exhibitions were held in Arusha, Kigali, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Johannesburg.

36. At these events, film screenings, talks and discussions on the work of the Tribunal were held. The Unit also processed numerous local and international media enquiries and broadcast via satellite court proceedings in the cases of *The Prosecutor v. Nyiramasuhuko et al.*; *The Prosecutor v. Augustin Ngirabatware*; *The Prosecutor v. Édouard Karemera and Matthieu Ngirumpatse*; *The Prosecutor v. Ildéphonse Nizeyimana*; and *The Prosecutor v. Callixte Nzabonimana*. The Office of the Registrar maintains an open line of communication with universities and other educational institutions in the region. In November 2014, the Office participated in planning and organizing the twentieth anniversary events of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, which brought together hundreds of scholars and legal practitioners as well as politicians, government officials and media practitioners from all corners of the world. Apart from distributing public information materials during the event, the Tribunal also launched a new short film on its work which is now posted on the Tribunal's website. In April 2015, the Tribunal participated in an event held to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide in Dar es Salaam. The event was jointly organized by the United Nations Offices in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Rwanda High Commission and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Tribunal set up two major exhibitions of its work during the commemoration event.

37. The Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali and 10 additional provincial information centres located across Rwanda continued to play a key role in promoting outreach activities of the Tribunal through information dissemination, improved communication and access to the jurisprudence and other legal materials of the Tribunal. The centres are visited daily by members of the Rwandan judiciary, students, researchers and the public, who are provided with informative materials and have access to briefings, training, library services, video screenings and the Internet.

38. Significantly, the Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre continued to receive greater awareness and use by senior government officials, including members of the military, and the police. The Centre was also regularly visited and used by civil society organizations from Rwanda and other countries, including Canada, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland and the United

States of America, which are on official study and/or attachment visits in Rwanda. The Tribunal handed over the Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre to the Government of Rwanda on 30 December 2014.

39. The Office of the Registrar continued its partnership with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in promoting outreach in Rwanda through the Centre.

Archives

40. During the period under review, the Tribunal continued with the preparation of its records, including hard copies, born-digital/electronic and audiovisual records for transfer to and management by the Mechanism. In order to ensure the smooth transfer of the remaining records, the Tribunal continued to collaborate very closely with the Mechanism in that regard, especially to ensure that the records are prepared in a manner that will facilitate their effective management by the Mechanism after transfer. During the reporting period, the Tribunal developed and implemented a strategic framework for the three components of the archiving project in order to streamline the preparation and transfer of its records:

(a) Digital/Electronic Records Management Project. The measures that have been taken to prepare for the disposition of the digital records include an appraisal and re-housing of the records in systems across the Tribunal, including shared drives and personal workspaces, and the planning and implementation of the transfer process. In this regard, focus was placed on the folders from offices where long-term to permanent records are created.

(i) The Tribunal is also implementing an E-mail Capture Project, to capture both legacy and current e-mail accounts of staff members who played a significant role in the history of the Tribunal, excluding the e-mail accounts of all judges and Chambers staff who are considered out of scope because of their involvement in judicial deliberations. An automatic harvesting tool had been set up to capture and redirect Capstone accounts from the restored tapes to individual folders on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda server. These tapes will be transferred to the Mechanism, along with the de-duplicated Capstone account folders.

(ii) The December 2014 asset transfer of the Tower Records and Information Management (TRIM) as well as DIVA Content Storage Management systems, comprising, respectively, 755 gigabytes of judicial and administrative records as well as 781 terabytes of audiovisual records, represented a huge milestone for the Tribunal's Archiving Project. The technical management of four remaining data sets is being carried out by the Mechanism.

(b) Audiovisual Redaction Project: At the end of 2013, a target was set for 6,000 hours each of redacted video material in English, French and Kinyarwanda to be handed over to the Mechanism at the close of the Audiovisual Redaction Project in December 2014. These video files were in addition to the audio files that had been previously completed. By the previously anticipated close of the project on 31 December 2014, a total of 6,488 hours of video footage had been marked for redaction, surpassing the 6,000-hour goal for this stage of the work. At this point, most of the marked material had passed quality control and 5,851 hours had undergone the final assembling of audio tracks and archiving stage of the workflow,

leaving a balance of 637 hours yet to be completed. All the outstanding wrapping and archiving was completed by a Tribunal skeleton team by 15 April 2015.

(c) Physical Records Management Project: During the reporting period the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda made significant progress in the preparation and transfer of physical records to the Mechanism. The revised Retention Schedule of the Tribunal, which addresses some gaps in the approved 2012 version, has officially been approved for implementation by the Office of Legal Affairs. As at 30 June 2015, the Tribunal had transferred to the Mechanism 1,812 linear metres of physical records out of an estimated total of 2,267 linear metres of records with long-term to permanent value anticipated for transfer by its closure in 2015. The overall transfer progress is currently 80 per cent of the revised estimates projected for transfer, with more than 96 per cent of judicial records already transferred to the Mechanism.

2. Judicial and Legal Affairs Section

41. During the reporting period, the Judicial and Legal Affairs Section provided legal support to the appeals process, the Office of the President and the Registrar and supervision of activities related to court management, defence counsel, detainees at the United Nations Detention Facility and acquitted and convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania.

42. During the period under review, the Section provided court management support services to the judicial processes of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, including the provision of minutes and transcripts of appellate proceedings in the following cases: *Nizeyimana*, *Nzabonimana*, *Karemera and Ngirumpatse* and *Nyiramasuhuko et al*. It continued to prepare judicial records for transfer to the Mechanism. The Section also provided support to the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the appointed amici curiae in the pending four cases of contempt/false testimony currently under review by a specially appointed chamber.

43. As part of its support to defence counsel and detainees (throughout the reporting period) and its support to acquitted and convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania (through 31 December 2014), the Section provided essential services, including the management of payments to defence counsel and attending to requests from detainees and released persons in the United Republic of Tanzania related to services provided by the Tribunal.

44. During the period under review, the Section worked closely with the Mechanism on matters related to witness and victims' support by preparing witness files for handover in completed cases before the Tribunal. In accordance with protective measures ordered by the Chambers, transcripts were redacted to expunge identifying information concerning witnesses or their family members prior to the transcripts being made public.

45. During the reporting period, the Section also assisted the Division of Administrative Support Services in its important legal advisory role for issues pertaining to the proper implementation and interpretation of United Nations administrative rules. The Section assisted the Office of the Registrar with staff members' appeals related to the downsizing and retention processes, matters affecting staff members' terms of appointment or contract of employment, and

investigations of allegations and misconduct, in some cases in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

46. The United Nations Detention Facility, as at 30 June 2015, housed a total inmate population of 13 detained persons. Those include 6 convicted persons awaiting appeals judgements and 7 convicted persons awaiting orders for transfer for the enforcement of sentences by the Mechanism.

47. The Language Services Section continued to provide interpretation and translation services in English, French and Kinyarwanda to the Tribunal and the Mechanism during proceedings conducted before the Appeals Chamber and the Mechanism. In this regard, the Section processed documents emanating from the Mechanism, the Appeals Chamber and the parties (prosecution and defence). It also provided the same services to the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry and other Tribunal and Mechanism departments. During the reporting period, in addition to translating trial and appeals judgements and decisions from the accrued backlog, the Section received a number of documents for translation, including five appeal briefs and many other appeal-related filings from different parties, numerous decisions as well as other judicial and administrative documents from the Appeals Chamber, the Registry, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Office of the President. The Section also received numerous documents from the Mechanism for translation, including reports, submissions, decisions, orders and documents relating to transferred cases and judgements from Rwandan courts. Given the reduction in the number of court sessions, interpreters have continued to assume a significant portion of the translation workload, thereby enabling the Section to substantially improve delivery times in the first half of the reporting period. However, with the drastic reduction in staff in December 2014 in compliance with the Tribunal's completion strategy, it is becoming increasingly difficult to cope with the workload of documents from the Appeals Chamber, the Mechanism and the Office of the Prosecutor requiring translation, while at the same time continuing to cope with the backlog of remaining trial and appeals judgements. It has become imperative to prioritize requests and deal with them as and when possible.

48. Since 1 January 2014, the Legal Library and Reference Unit, formerly in the Judicial and Legal Affairs Section of the Tribunal, has been managed by the Mechanism. Information on its collection and projects may therefore be found in the Mechanism's annual report.

3. Division of Administrative Support Services

49. The Division of Administrative Support Services carries the responsibility of providing a wide range of services, such as budget and finance, medical services, security, travel, human resources, training and counselling services, buildings management and property control. During the reporting period, the Division also provided some administrative services to the Mechanism in line with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010).

50. The Division is currently involved in the preparations for the implementation of Umoja under Cluster 4. In addition, it continues to liquidate excess assets that are no longer required in line with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda liquidation plan.

51. The process of downsizing continued to pose major challenges to the operations of the entire Tribunal, and the Division has continued to respond to those challenges in a proactive and flexible manner. Staff retention exercises were conducted in order to determine the number and composition of staff to be retained until the completion of the Tribunal's work.

52. The Human Resources and Planning Section continued to undertake a smooth and objective downsizing process with respect to the large number of staff separating from the Tribunal. Repatriation, relocation and career counselling, in addition to the other staff administration and recruitment activities, made up the majority of the workload of the Section during the reporting period. In 2003, the Tribunal staff originated from 87 different countries. As at 30 June 2015, the staff were from 52 different countries.

53. With more than 50 per cent of the Tribunal's workforce consisting of staff members who have been with the Tribunal since its inception, the looming closure and few options for future jobs has been a source of stress and concern that the Tribunal has to deal with as part of the completion strategy. In the area of human resources management, it should also be noted that since its inception, the Tribunal has continuously grappled with the challenges of attracting and retaining qualified staff for the following reasons:

(a) The ad hoc nature of the Tribunal as an organization with a limited lifespan was an impediment to attracting and retaining qualified and dedicated professionals at the Tribunal;

(b) Arusha was not very attractive as a duty station and many people were reluctant in the beginning to come and work there;

(c) Although the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was clear, what has never been clear was the status granted to the Tribunal's staff and whether they belonged to the United Nations Secretariat or not;

(d) Short-term contracts with limited benefits also adversely affected the recruitment and retention of staff. Many people were reluctant to come and work in Arusha, and the short duration of contracts issued to current staff members continued to contribute to increased uncertainty and to have a negative impact on productivity. Some of the limitations to temporary appointments have the potential to create a negative impact on the timely liquidation of the Tribunal's assets and liabilities, which is also part of the completion strategy.

Staff retention process of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

54. An important part of the completion strategy of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was the establishment of a staff retention policy. The Tribunal's retention policy was a result of the decision to downsize staff towards the closure of the Tribunal. The retention exercise, being a top priority of the management, entailed the continuation of the Tribunal's work with a reduced workforce. The retention process centred on the following issues: determining who would be retained, how such a determination would be made, preventing essential staff from leaving *en masse*, and coping with the mass separations. To address the situation, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda adopted an ad hoc review mechanism that entailed the establishment of a retention task force to propose review criteria, the establishment of section retention panels and the appointment of

an advisory retention review committee to review contentious cases and make recommendations to the management.

Exceptional measures

55. In order to assist the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in retaining the staff it needs to complete its work before the scheduled closure date, the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat was extremely cooperative in providing to the Tribunal and its sister tribunal, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, within the boundaries of the rules, some exceptional measures in the areas of staff administration and recruitment. Those measures were intended to provide much needed motivation in the retention of essential staff to complete the work of the Tribunal. One of the measures of significant importance was the authority to extend the services of staff beyond the age of retirement, so as not to bring any disruption in the work, to preserve institutional memories at a crucial time, and to avoid lengthy recruitment procedures.

56. The Career Development and Counselling Unit is implementing a four-pronged strategy to support the completion of the Tribunal's mandate, as follows:

(a) Training programmes to support personal and professional transition of staff, aimed at providing management and staff with skills to meet the challenges of organizational change and downsizing, multitasking and double-hatting. They also aim to provide staff with skills to successfully make the transition to another job, self-employment or retirement, as the case may be;

(b) Programmes to support completion of operations: these are technical training programmes aimed at helping sections to complete their operations successfully, either to close down or transfer functions to the Mechanism;

(c) Stress counselling and coaching support during the completion process: this aims to help staff and their families to deal with the stress and challenges of the downsizing, and to coach them on issues such as interview preparation, career planning, problem solving and decision-making;

(d) Provision of welfare support to separating and relocating staff and families: this is aimed at providing practical help and information during separation and relocation, and promoting physical fitness and social well-being of the Tribunal's staff and families during the final period of the Tribunal.

57. The Security and Safety Section continued to support the Tribunal and the Mechanism's Arusha branch in ensuring the safety and security of their staff, premises, assets and operations through implementation of United Nations security management system policies, including the Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards (MORSS) and the Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS). With the ever-increasing levels of insecurity in the East Africa region exacerbated by recent arrests of Al-Shabaab sympathizers, including the recovery of significant amounts of explosive materials, the Section has continued to promote close collaboration with the host government authorities in monitoring security trends and ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to provide adequate notification and implementation of well-rehearsed mitigating measures for United Nations staff in the Arusha/Kilimanjaro regions.

58. The Health Services Unit was instrumental, as one of the administrative support services, for the smooth running of court sessions and of the Tribunal in general. The Unit essentially provided curative and preventive care and trauma counselling support, and performed medico-administrative duties for staff members and officials of the Tribunal and the Mechanism and their dependants. It is also responsible for providing medical services to detainees, witnesses, victims and acquitted persons. This provision of medical care allowed detainees and witnesses to attend scheduled court sessions easily without absenteeism or delays for health reasons.

59. The Information Technology Services Section continues to support the Mechanism's information technology infrastructure in Arusha and Kigali and sustaining services required by the Tribunal through this final stage of its completion strategy.

60. In the area of resources management, the Budget and Finance Section continued to provide expertise on proper planning, control and monitoring of the utilization of available resources as well as timely and reliable services to staff members and clients of the Tribunal. The Tribunal's first set of financial statements compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) was produced and is currently with the United Nations Board of Auditors for its review. Preparations for the implementation of Umoja are also ongoing.

61. The General Services Section provided vital support to the Tribunal, which included realignment of office space, preparing administrative documents for archiving, construction of a temporary archives facility, general repairs and maintenance and asset control and management. During the reporting period, Building Management Services continued to review use of office space in line with the completion strategy, and apart from the staff of the Office of the Prosecutor, all Tribunal staff members have been consolidated into one wing of the Arusha International Conference Centre complex. All courtrooms, apart from the one being retained for the use of the Appeals Chamber and the Mechanism, have been dismantled and the space has been reorganized or returned to the landlord. Among the Section's achievements were the gradual reduction of office space usage from a peak of 10,859.00 square metres in 2003 to 6,083.83 square metres as of 1 July 2015. The temporary archives facility has also been handed over to the Mechanism. Liquidation of assets has continued in earnest. As at 30 October 2013, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had 2,635 non-expendables worth $12,324,199.14, 3,925 expendables, excluding furniture, worth $1,881,843.46 and 267,238 consumables valued at $1,602,508.24. By 30 June 2015 there were 2,174 non-expendables remaining valued at $9,605,976.44, 2,567 expendables valued at $1,171,639.53 and 83,766 consumables worth $941,080.94. These achievements were remarkable not least because they had been brought to fruition in the face of challenges such as staff reduction and the combination of going into liquidation with preparation for the implementation of Umoja.

62. With the impending closure of the Tribunal, the main function of the Procurement Section has been the disposal of the Tribunal's assets and transferring those that may be utilized by the Mechanism into its custody. During the reporting period, the procurement workload has also increased owing to demands for the procurement, shipping and clearing of items procured for the Mechanism.

63. The Administrative Legal Services Unit has continued to play an important legal advisory role for issues pertaining to the proper implementation and

interpretation of United Nations administrative rules, cases relating to the privileges and immunities of staff regarding civil and criminal cases, and disputes related to domestic employees of Tribunal staff members. In addition, the Unit has been assisting the Registrar with appeals related to the downsizing and retention processes, performance evaluations and investigations of allegations and misconduct in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Unit has also been responsible for coordination activities of all other oversight bodies.

III. Conclusion

64. The Tribunal has made significant achievements during the past year towards the goals of the completion strategy in the face of a very high workload, and significant progress was made on the appeals and on the transition to the Mechanism. The reporting period continued to see concrete progress towards closure of the Tribunal, which is now expected by the end of 2015. In the final months, the focus is now entirely on the transition to the Mechanism and the completion of the one remaining appeal in an efficient and timely manner without compromising fair trial rights.

65. State cooperation remains the cornerstone for the ability of the Tribunal to complete its mandate and for the Mechanism to continue its residual functions. The Tribunal appreciates the continued trust and support of Member States, especially on crucial matters that have now been transferred to the Mechanism, including tracking efforts with respect to the remaining fugitives. The Mechanism will require, however, increased cooperation with respect to its efforts to relocate acquitted persons and those convicted persons released in the United Republic of Tanzania. In this respect, the President and the Registrar continued their efforts to find States for relocation during the first half of the reporting period, after which that responsibility was handed over to the Mechanism on 1 January 2015. The Tribunal hopes that Member States will actively contribute to finding a meaningful solution.

66. Finally, as the Tribunal continues to separate staff pursuant to the completion strategy, the request for absorption of the Tribunal's staff members into the United Nations system is re-emphasized. The Tribunal would appreciate increased support from Member States in addressing its numerous challenges.

67. The Tribunal's efforts regarding capacity-building, training and education, which have now expanded beyond East Africa, remained strong during the reporting period. This included events marking the twentieth anniversary of the Tribunal's creation and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned with other international tribunals and domestic authorities through workshops, best practices manuals and training.

68. The closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is imminent, and an event to mark the Tribunal's closure is planned for November 2015. By the end of 2015, the Tribunal will be in its liquidation phase and the Mechanism will have fully assumed jurisdiction and responsibility for residual functions and the archives of the Tribunal. In order to achieve what is necessary prior to closure, the Tribunal again calls upon the international community to provide it with the support necessary to achieve completion of its mandate.

United Nations A/69/995–S/2015/578

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 July 2015, addressed to you by the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mehmet Dânâ (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Levent **Eler**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

15-13001 (E) 110815

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 21 July 2015 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/69/989-S/2015/553), which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As to the false assertion regarding the "illegally issued notices to airmen", it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace, including issuance of notices to airmen, are carried out by and in cooperation with the relevant authorities of the State in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the assertion raised in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another attempt to distort the facts and the realities of the island. As noted in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory, national airspace and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Civil Aviation Department, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2014 alone, the number of passengers that used Ercan Airport stood at almost 3,250,000, while the projected number of passengers for 2015 is 3,500,000. Moreover, in 2014, around 25,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure, and around 200,000 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace. The numbers are expected to be at around 27,000 and 210,000, respectively, for 2015. In that respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false statements, to confer legitimacy upon the long-defunct "Republic of Cyprus" are futile, since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed contribute to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself rights and responsibilities that it does not legally have and to cease its hostile acts against the Turkish Cypriot people. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is and has always been the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospect of finding a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive propaganda tactics and focus on the negotiating process so that the current window of opportunity for a fair and durable comprehensive settlement can be seized. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus